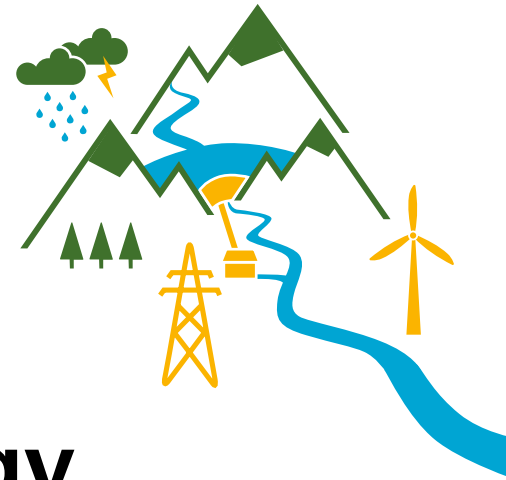




Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Council

Swiss Confederation



2030 Sustainable Development Strategy



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Executive Summary



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) is the frame of reference adopted by the international community for tackling the world's major challenges. All United Nations (UN) member states have made a political commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda both nationally and internationally, to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals it contains by 2030 and to leave no one behind.

The Federal Council actively assumes this commitment both nationally and internationally and accepts its responsibility towards present and future generations. In this 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy the Council lays out the manner in which it intends to do this over the next ten years.

Major crises such as pandemics, serious impacts of climate change, disasters, conflicts or economic crises have illustrated the interdependence of the various dimensions of sustainable development and created general awareness that action frameworks can change quickly. They reaffirm the need for comprehensive and systemic approaches that take account of social solidarity, economic efficiency and environmental responsibility on an equal, balanced and integrated basis. Resilience – the capacity to detect disruptions as early as possible, and to guard against, adapt to, manage and recover from them – must be further strengthened.

All stakeholders will need to join forces over the next ten years to demonstrate that a future-fit and equitable world is possible, in harmony with the natural environment, in prosperity, peace and partnership.

Federal policy guidelines

The Federal policy guidelines and specific goals for sustainable development are being implemented in a forward-looking manner across all federal policy areas. Special importance must therefore be given to transparency in dealing with conflicting objectives between the different policies, so as to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development.

Priority topics with goals and strategic directions

Switzerland attaches great importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. Switzerland is well advanced with respect to some of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. It has a high-quality education system and a good healthcare sector, for example. Yet more still needs to be done in some fields where special action and coordination between policy areas is required at federal level. With regard to these priority topics, the Federal Council uses this strategy to set targets for Switzerland as well as strategic domestic and foreign policy directions for federal policy.

- 1. Sustainable consumption and sustainable production:** Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns, ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources, furthering transformation towards sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad, strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally.
- 2. Climate, energy and biodiversity:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts, reducing energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energies, preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity.
- 3. Equal opportunities and social cohesion:** Promoting individual self-determination, ensuring social cohesion, guaranteeing real equality between women and men.

Drivers of sustainable development

Civil society, the economy and the financial market, together with education, research and innovation, all play a crucial role as drivers in facilitating attainment of the priority goals. The Confederation therefore creates the enabling environment needed and in so doing enhances Switzerland's attributes as a business location.

Monitoring and reporting

In the pursuit of the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS), the Confederation regularly reviews – both qualitatively and quantitatively – the state of implementation and provides progress reports. On this basis, it deduces what further action is needed and accordingly makes any requisite adjustments.

Implementation measures

All federal agencies are invited, within their spheres of competence, to play a part in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. Numerous strategies, action plans and measures in all policy areas are playing a vital part in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at federal level. They are determined via the usual decision-making processes in the respective policy areas. In addition, in each legislative period the Federal Council adopts an action plan on the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy containing selected new measures that flesh out the goals and strategic directions in areas in which there are still gaps.

1 Introduction



Sustainable development is a state objective enshrined in the Federal Constitution (Arts. 2 and 73 Cst.) Since 1997, the Federal Council has been laying out the political priorities of its sustainability policy in its Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). In so doing, it endeavours to give balanced consideration to the various interests pertaining to business, society and the environment in all policy areas, in pursuit of a coherent policy for sustainable development at federal level.

The Federal Council's understanding of sustainable development is as follows: Sustainable development makes it possible to meet the basic needs of all people and ensures a good quality of life throughout the world, now and in the future. It encompasses the three dimensions of environmental responsibility, social solidarity and economic efficiency, and this on an equal, balanced and integrated basis, while also factoring in the tolerance limits of global ecosystems. With its underlying principles and its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) comprises the reference framework for this.

In domestic and foreign policy terms, the Federal Council attaches paramount importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda and, through the 2030 SDS, underscores its commitment to meeting the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals. It has therefore reset its strategy time horizon to 2030. Switzerland is implementing the entirety of the 2030 Agenda and attaches equal importance to all 17 global Sustainable Development Goals. By setting three priority topics (sustainable consumption and sustainable production; climate, energy and biodiversity; equal opportunities and social cohesion), the Federal Council is underpinning its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, especially in those fields where there is the greatest need for action and coordination between the various aspects of Switzerland's domestic and foreign policy.

The 2030 SDS is primarily a tool for coordinating policy areas and is specifically aimed at gearing the numerous sectoral activities of the Confederation towards sustainable development. As a cross-cutting strategy, it formulates guidelines for federal policy and establishes targets up to 2030 as well as strategic directions with corresponding policy priorities. In this way, it facilitates future-fit approaches to managing any conflicts between objectives in government action in pursuit of sustainable development. It builds on existing strategies and actions and, as a guiding strategy, is aimed at further developing them from a sustainability perspective. The 2030 SDS applies primarily to federal policy and focuses in particular on areas that fall within the purview of the Confederation. Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda is incumbent on the whole of society and will require the collaboration of all players within their respective spheres of competence if it is to succeed. The Federal Council therefore invites the cantons, communes, civil society, the business sector and academia as well as the population at large to endorse the aims of this strategy and, through their inputs, to join forces with the Confederation in the pursuit of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

Resilience – the capacity to anticipate disruptions as early as possible, and to protect against, adapt to, overcome and recover from them – is a crucial dimension of sustainable development. With its risks and opportunities, the digital transformation is playing a significant role in this process. Against the backdrop of mounting risks in the realms of nature, technology and society, it is all the more important to give balanced consideration to social, economic and environmental factors. Overcoming such global challenges in a highly networked and ever more digital world will require political, economic, civil society and scientific cooperation that transcends national borders.

At the start of every legislature period and within the framework of the Dispatch on Legislature Planning, as well as based on an interim evaluation, the Federal Council approves an action plan for the duration of a legislature period. Mandated by the Federal Council, a baseline assessment of Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda is prepared every four years. That assessment always forms the basis of a country report presented by the Federal Council, intended for the Swiss population and submitted to the United Nations in the framework of the voluntary review mechanism. The next report is due in 2022.

The 2021–2023 Action Plan fleshes out the 2030 SDS with selected new federal-level measures that contribute to the aims and strategic directions of the 2030 SDS. Most of the Federal Government's policy areas already contain numerous strategies and instruments either decided on or being implemented, all contributing to realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Action Plan specifically supplements them with further measures in areas where there are still gaps or which require greater cross-sectoral cooperation. It therefore contains only measures that are not already present in other strategies and instruments.

2 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



In September 2015, Heads of State and Government of all UN member countries adopted the 2030 Agenda.¹ In so doing, the international community created a common global reference framework for sustainable development. All states declared their readiness jointly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and to contribute appropriately towards implementing them domestically and internationally by incorporating the 2030 Agenda as a reference framework into their processes, policies and strategies.

The 2030 Agenda lays out 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets, which must be implemented in full (→ [Appendix 1](#)). It is a complex and ambitious Agenda that requires gradual change as well as profound transformations.

Switzerland played a key role in shaping the 2030 Agenda during the international negotiations. In adopting the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland joined all other states in reaffirming the will to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030. While the 2030 Agenda is not binding under international law, it does represent an important point of reference for the Federal Council. This latter body has given a political undertaking to implement the Agenda 2030 in full, both in Switzerland and in its activities abroad, to make an appropriate contribution to realising the global Sustainable Development Goals as well as to provide or seek the necessary financial resources.

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2019.² The report was prepared by an independent group of scientists so mandated by the international community, and takes stock of the first four years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. According to the GSDR, the international community is still not on track to meet all the global Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The progress made over recent decades is at risk of being negated by increasing worldwide inequalities and potentially irreversible environmental degradation. A radical change of direction will require major changes to the way policies are designed. Particular importance would have to be attributed to the links between individual Sustainable Development Goals and the handling of any conflicts between their objectives. The insights from the GSDR lay critical groundwork for further action by Switzerland and were fed into the elaboration of the 2030 SDS. Other important insights can be derived from the sustainability research conducted by the academic community in Switzerland.³

3 Federal policy guidelines



Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals requires joint endeavours in all policy areas and calls for fundamental adjustments in some instances. By way of orientation for national and international implementation, the Federal Council has laid out the following guidelines:

- Taking joint responsibility: The challenge of sustainable development is of concern to every area of society. The precautionary principle, and the polluter pays and liability principles will have to be applied. If a globally sound ecological, social and economic system is to be secured over the long term, responsibility will have to be taken jointly and in solidarity, and special attention paid in all policy areas to the needs of future generations and to the 2030 Agenda principle of “leaving no one behind”.
- Taking balanced account of target dimensions: Sustainable development takes account of the three target dimensions of economic efficiency, social solidarity and environmental responsibility, as well as correlations between them, in an equal, balanced and integrated manner. Special attention must be paid to the tolerance limits of global ecosystems, the satisfaction of people’s basic needs and fair distribution within and between generations. To address the long-term challenges effectively, a holistic approach is needed.
- Incorporating sustainable development into all policy areas: The Federal Council regards sustainable development as a cross-cutting core concept. It should therefore not be treated as an auxiliary element of sectoral policy but incorporated into all policy areas as a forward-looking and integral component. Federal agencies are called upon, within their areas of competence, to implement the principles and goals enunciated in the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS and to build them into their regular planning, budget and policy management processes.
- Increasing policy coherence for sustainable development: The aim is to achieve policy coherence at all levels of government, between policy areas, between domestic and foreign policy goals and in relation to cross-border impacts, including those on developing countries. To harmonise and optimise government action on sustainable development, policy decisions must rest on proposals that allow for the early detection of their social, economic and environmental impacts. In making policy decisions, interests are weighed up transparently and the rationale given. This entails identifying and disclosing any content-related conflicts of objectives or adverse secondary effects. Much greater use is made of synergies between policies.

- Forging sustainable development partnerships: Many challenges can only be tackled through close cooperation between the three levels of state (→ 7.2) and jointly with all social players (→ 7.3). The Federal Council recognises the indispensable contributions made by all relevant state and non-state players towards sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and as far as possible includes them on a participatory basis in decision-making, implementation and reporting processes. Existing coordination channels are used whenever possible. To benefit from momentum across the whole of society, new partners are mobilised and existing partnerships further strengthened.

4 Priority topics



The 2030 SDS focuses on those topic areas where there is particular need for action and for the coordination of policy areas at federal level. It concentrates exclusively on topics that are embodied in the 2030 Agenda and lays down the three areas of “sustainable consumption and sustainable production”, “climate, energy and biodiversity”, and “equal opportunities and social cohesion” as priorities for Switzerland’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These priority topics were determined based on the baseline assessment⁴ prepared in 2018, which analysed all goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda and ascertained Switzerland’s degree of target attainment. The first comprehensive country report on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁵ submitted by Switzerland to the UN in 2018 built upon it.

The three priority topics are both closely interlinked and interdependent. The environment-related challenges described in this chapter cannot therefore be resolved without considering their economic and social ramifications. The economic challenges must be tackled bearing in mind the attendant environmental and social impacts in Switzerland and abroad, and vice versa. These three mutually influencing priority topics clearly illustrate the importance of a balanced consideration of the three dimensions of sustainability. The quest for balance also forms the common theme running through the strategic goals outlined in this chapter.

To implement the 2030 Agenda at national level, the challenges up to 2030 are identified for each priority topic. Structured by subtopic, domestic policy goals and strategic directions are laid down for federal policy. Each goal is based on a target from the 2030 Agenda⁶ adapted to Switzerland’s national realities and usually has a time horizon up to 2030. The number in front of each goal refers to the number of the corresponding target in the 2030 Agenda. At an international level, Switzerland is committed in principle to the corresponding targets as laid out in the 2030 Agenda. The strategic directions focus on domestic and foreign policy action alternatives, bearing in mind the positive and negative impacts on other countries and their prospects of meeting their own sustainable development goals.⁷

No measures are set out in this strategy. On the one hand, they are determined via the usual decision-making channels in the respective policy areas. On the other, in each legislature period the Federal Council adopts an action plan on the strategy, containing additional measures that flesh out the goals and strategic directions.

4.1 Sustainable consumption and sustainable production



The world population is consuming more resources than ecosystems can provide, with Switzerland accounting for an above-average per capita share. If society and economy are to develop without surpassing the planet's capacities, consumption and production patterns must be made more sustainable. In this context, Switzerland faces the following specific challenges:

- **Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns:** Switzerland's population needs to consume more sustainably. Natural resource usage must not outstrip the rate at which ecosystems are regenerated. Adverse social and environmental impacts of goods and services are to be reduced throughout their life cycle. → [4.1.1](#)
- **Ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources:** The well-being and prosperity of the Swiss population should be ensured without overexploiting natural resources. Among other things, this requires the decoupling of economic growth from resource utilisation and the creation of a competitive regulatory environment that makes for an innovative and future-fit economy. It is imperative for production to be associated with more efficient and sparing use of resources. → [4.1.2](#)

- **Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad:** Food systems must be made more sustainable so that they enhance food security and help promote healthy and sustainable nutrition without surpassing the tolerance limits of global and local ecosystems. At the same time, they must maintain and, where necessary, enhance the social compatibility and the economic base of the stakeholders concerned. → [4.1.3](#)
- **Strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally:** In line with international standards, companies domiciled or operating in Switzerland should be accountable for the impacts of their activities throughout their value chains on society and environment in Switzerland and abroad. → [4.1.4](#)

It is important that conflicts of objectives are handled transparently. Under this priority topic, this pertains, among other things, to the connection between environmental degradation and economic growth, between ecological and social requirements and the leeway available to enterprises, between consumer society, resource consumption and production, and between the agriculture and food sector and the protection and preservation of natural habitats.

4.1.1 Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns

Since the mid-1990s, Swiss consumption has increased at twice the rate of population growth.⁸ In addition, each year Switzerland generates between 80 and 90 million tonnes of waste⁹ in the various phases of goods production, packaging, transport, distribution and consumption. Owing to market failures and a lack of international coordination, the adverse environmental impacts of production and consumption are still not being sufficiently factored into the pricing of goods and services. The upshot of this is the overexploitation of natural resources.

An ever greater proportion of the goods consumed in Switzerland is supplied from abroad or made from imported raw materials or intermediate products.¹⁰ Domestic measures are therefore only a part of the solution. Promoting sustainable and transparent supply chains is just as crucial to reducing Switzerland's environmental and social footprint abroad. Challenges persist with respect to the global transformation of production systems towards sustainability, the promotion of cost transparency, traceability, the declaration of real costs and the observance of international social and environmental standards at all stages of the value chain. At the same time, short and diversified production and supply chains prove their worth during global crises. Through their behaviour patterns, Switzerland's consumers – whether private or public – can help to make the range of goods and services they consume more sustainable and thereby influence resource consumption and working conditions in Switzerland and beyond.

The digital transformation too is fundamentally altering production processes, consumer behaviour and goods and services. While carrying risks (→ 4.3.1), it is unlocking opportunities, for example, by making it possible to produce more energy-efficient goods, by incorporating technology that reduces the demand for certain products or resources or by boosting labour productivity. Yet so-called rebound effects – savings potential from efficiency gains is only partly realised owing to higher demand – could in part undermine or even outweigh these positive effects.

Goals

12.8 People are aware of the economic, social and environmental impacts of their lifestyle. Consumers and private and public procurement entities can access the information needed to make purchasing decisions that help to bring down natural resource consumption and attenuate adverse social and environmental impacts. Framework conditions favour such decisions.¹¹

12.c Negative environmental impacts of existing financial incentives for the use of fossil fuels are identified, and action taken to phase out their use.

National strategic directions

(a) Boosting the supply of sustainable goods and services

To ensure that the supply of sustainably produced goods and services is competitive and that market distortions are eliminated, the Confederation is committed to ensuring true cost pricing by internalising external costs. The Confederation looks into eliminating environmentally harmful incentives, providing financial support for sustainable products and adopting statutory regulations to make the consumption of sustainable products more attractive. It examines existing obstacles to the supply of sustainable goods and to the more efficient use of natural resources and, within the scope of its possibilities, minimises them based on a weighing up of the interests at play. As a purchaser, the Confederation works with the cantons and communes to promote demand for sustainable innovations. (→ [6.1](#))

(b) Improving consumer knowledge

The Confederation promotes sustainable purchasing decisions and highlights the advantages of sustainable consumption patterns. To that end, it encourages the relevant players to inform, sensitise and motivate consumers and private and public procurement entities to develop responsible consumer behaviour, thereby fomenting the production of sustainable goods and services. The Confederation provides consumers with understandable and pertinent information, such as basic data for life-cycle analyses, thus enabling them always to identify the most sustainable purchasing options.

At home and abroad, the Confederation strives to ensure that product properties as well as the externalities present in supply chains and throughout product life cycles are declared in a transparent, comparable and credible manner.

(c) Averting the negative impacts of subsidies or tax incentives for fossil fuels by reducing or restructuring them

In its mandatory periodic review of subsidies, the Confederation also explores their implications for sustainability. Building on work already under way, it examines primarily the adverse effects of subsidies or those of full or partial tax exemptions.

International strategic directions

Switzerland monitors and supports international programmes to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. The country is implementing the UN Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and is helping to develop a follow-up programme. Switzerland is committed to the design of a uniform and internationally applicable method for quantitatively assessing the environmental impacts of products all throughout their life cycle. Switzerland supports databases that facilitate the assessment of the environmental impacts of the various economic activities.¹² At an international level, Switzerland is committed to reducing and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies. Through international cooperation, Switzerland supports education for sustainable development, civic participation, peace and human rights education, environmental education, the inclusion of health and nutrition in basic education programmes, and other educational activities. Switzerland promotes trade in environmentally friendly products.

4.1.2 Ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources

Switzerland's level of prosperity is among the highest in the OECD area. Assuring long-term prosperity is nevertheless being hampered by demographic change and slowing growth of labour productivity and endangered by a high level of natural resource consumption.¹³

The crucial challenge is that of shaping economic activity such that prosperity and well-being are preserved without overexploiting natural resources. Innovative economic approaches, for example from the sharing economy, can support these objectives. Sustainable economic management creates stable employment and income opportunities for people and for enterprises, ensures healthy long-term public finances, at the same time helping to fund and attain social and environmental objectives.

The Swiss economy needs good, internationally competitive and sound framework conditions, legal and planning certainty, economic policy that fosters competition, efficient and innovation-friendly regulations, functioning ecosystems and well-preserved natural resources. A future-fit and highly diversified economy with substitution options can better withstand crises.

Despite some efficiency gains, Switzerland is still far away from sustainable growth in all fields, particularly as regards resource utilisation. Increasing worldwide resource consumption has brought global climate stability and ecosystems to the limits of their resilience. Switzerland is contributing to this by virtue of its high per capita resource consumption.¹⁴ It is vital to associate production and consumption with more efficient and sparing use of resources and to further decouple economic activity from adverse impacts on environment and society.

Goals

- 12.2(a)** The overexploitation of natural resources in Switzerland and abroad is avoided. The environmental impacts of consumption and production are markedly reduced. The materials footprint is reduced substantially and in harmony with the 1.5-degree target set in the Paris Climate Agreement.¹⁵
- 8.4** Companies adopt closed-loop approaches that are more efficient and sparing in the use of resources to optimise their procurement and production processes, products and business models.¹⁶
- 8.2** Framework conditions enabling competition and innovation as well as productivity for a sustainable economy are preserved and further enhanced.¹⁷
- 12.4** Constant care is taken to ensure that throughout their life cycle, chemicals have no unacceptable impacts on the environment and on human health.¹⁸

National strategic directions

(a) Promoting socially and environmentally sustainable production patterns

The Confederation strives to ensure that in pursuing their activities, economic players are mindful of the need to preserve the quality of the environment and human health, to respect human rights and ensure decent working conditions and to set goals that are in line with planetary tolerance limits. Based on dialogue with civil society organisations and business sector entities, the Confederation develops targets and measurable goals for sustainable consumption and production patterns. It also ensures strict application of the polluter-pays principle enshrined in the Federal Act on Environmental Protection of 7 October 1983 (EPA; SR 814.01)¹⁹ by seeing to it that the associated costs to the population and economy remain bearable. The Confederation institutes favourable general conditions that buttress the Swiss economy's capacity for innovation over the long term and support the development and dissemination of innovations and technologies conducive to resource-sparing production and consumption. In addition to information regarding the sustainability of particular products, the Confederation also encourages initiatives that enable resource-conserving consumer behaviour.

(b) Boosting competitiveness, innovative capacity and the productivity of the Swiss economy

The Confederation supports sustainable economic development and further improves general conditions to foster the efficient allocation of the factors of production and greater incentives to innovation. It is committed to dynamic competition, low market-entry requirements, a high degree of transparency, a qualified workforce, healthy public finances and optimal administrative expenditure coupled with highly effective regulations. This requires regular monitoring to determine whether the hoped-for regulatory objectives can be met more effectively through better-suited measures based on changed market conditions and on technological progress. It draws on the possibilities offered by digitisation to reduce the administrative burden. To the extent possible, regulatory provisions are internationally coordinated, lean and innovation friendly.

(c) Promoting a circular economy

The Confederation facilitates implementation of innovative production procedures and sustainable and resource-sparing business models guided by the principle of a circular economy. It eliminates barriers and administrative hurdles that hamper companies in establishing resource-efficient business models. It relies on private sector initiative and, where necessary, explores regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to resource conservation and the promotion of eco-design, repairing, sharing and reuse. This can boost material efficiency and reduce waste generation and the consumption of natural raw materials all along the value chain.

(d) Avoiding the adverse effects of chemical products on health and the environment

The Confederation creates a legal environment that enables companies to obtain the requisite data on the dangerous properties of all chemicals that they produce, import or put into circulation, as well as information to facilitate their safe handling, and to provide users with such information in an appropriate manner. It enacts regulations to enable the players responsible to take steps to minimise the risks involved in handling chemicals and to replace substances of particular concern with less hazardous alternatives. Furthermore, the Confederation promotes the application of the basic principles of sustainable chemistry in research and in the production, use and disposal of products, as well as in the development of new processes and products.

International strategic directions

At multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, Switzerland strives for improved and binding framework conditions that will boost the competitive and innovative capacity of companies in sustainable production and the protection of natural resources, the extraction and trading of raw materials and in sustainable infrastructure. This entails promoting the implementation, further development and strengthening of international environmental and social standards. In collaboration with the private sector, Switzerland advocates the greatest possible internalisation of externalities and the strengthening of global governance in this field.

Switzerland supports the developing and emerging countries in shaping structural change, private sector development, becoming integrated into regional economic cycles and the global economy, and in creating decent employment. The country helps to strengthen local civil society and participatory approaches in decision-making processes. It favours the introduction of reliable legal frameworks for sustainable investment and supports the implementation of high ecological, social and economic standards. Of key importance in these endeavours are resource-efficient production processes, improved transparency, long-term financing solutions and the reinforcement of expertise while being mindful of environmental dimensions.

Switzerland is committed to a comprehensive, coherent and efficient international chemicals regime that tackles existing and new problem areas through effective action, including legally binding agreements. It supports framework conditions that make for the proper handling of chemicals and harmful substances at a national level, in particular in developing countries.

4.1.3 Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad

The long-term food security and well-being of the entire population requires sufficiently wholesome and affordable food that is produced in a socially and environmentally friendly manner. On the one hand, food systems must cope with ever more changes – from sudden shocks to long-term stress factors such as environmental changes (for example, climate or biodiversity and soil loss). On the other, sustainable and resilient food systems can overcome such crises and mitigate their adverse impacts on the environment and on people. The necessary transformation towards sustainable food systems poses challenges at all stages of the value chain in Switzerland and abroad – from production through to the disposal of food, including processing, transport, marketing and consumption. Short and diversified cycles have proven more advantageous in times of global crisis. In addition, diet is a critical health factor that raises other challenges, but also offers potential for synergies.²⁰

About half the food consumed in Switzerland is imported. This division of labour fosters competition, innovation and general well-being in Switzerland, but also has the consequence that a considerable portion of the adverse environmental and social impacts of producing that food is felt abroad.²¹ Estimates are that food thrown away each year accounts for some 2.8 million tonnes of the avoidable food losses throughout the entire food chain. This means that 25 per cent of environmental harm from the food sector can be traced back to food losses.²² In the changeover to more sustainable food systems, reducing adverse social and environmental impacts is a key consideration.^{23, 24}

Goals

- 2.1** The portion of the population consuming a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet in keeping with the nutritional recommendations of the food pyramid rises to a third.²⁵
- 12.3** Avoidable food losses per capita are half the 2017 figure.²⁶
- 12.2 (b)** On the basis of environmental accounting, the carbon footprint from final per capita food demand declines by one quarter compared to 2020.²⁷
- 2.4** The proportion of farms engaged in especially environment- and animal-friendly production under public and private sustainability programmes rises by a third compared with 2020.²⁸

National strategic directions

(a) Promoting healthy, balanced and sustainable nutrition

Within the scope of its remit, the Confederation supports the relevant players, on the one hand, in improving the composition of food and meals according to sustainability criteria and in further developing it through research and innovation, and on the other, in making a balanced, wholesome and sustainable diet attractive and affordable for all. To that end, it supports the relevant information and awareness-raising activities, among other things.

(b) Reducing food waste

The Confederation devises and supports measures to reduce avoidable food waste all along the value chain up to and including the consumption stage. Those measures are devised and prioritised so as to reduce the environmental impact as drastically as possible and ensure food security. The Confederation and the industries jointly set specific reduction targets.

(c) Enhancing sustainability throughout the food value chain

The Confederation creates favourable, transparent and efficient framework conditions for sustainable food systems throughout the food value chain, from agricultural production through to consumption. It promotes the internalisation of external costs and transparency regarding the origin and production methods of food. In so doing, it is especially mindful of environmental impacts, social circumstances and animal welfare considerations. It foments a transition to sustainable food systems by further fine-tuning agricultural policy and other relevant policy areas. In the realm of production, the Confederation supports enterprises in the changeover to production methods that are resource-saving, socially sustainable, locally adapted and geared to the market.

Besides, it explores and, where appropriate, applies greater restrictiveness in permitting the agriculture sector to introduce hazardous substances into the environment. In so doing, it ensures that the measures are economically and socially sustainable. The Confederation is committed to ensuring that the relevant stakeholders are able to apply knowledge so as to avoid greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and promote biodiversity as well as agrobiodiversity. The Confederation also promotes the strengthening of basic and continuing education in the field of sustainable food systems. It promotes the transformation through coordinated collaboration in the agriculture and food sector, as well as with and among players in all other relevant policy areas.

(d) Enhancing the resilience of the food system

The Confederation promotes the resilience of the food system in order to ensure long-term food security. This includes responsible investment, strengthening the social and economic situation of agricultural enterprises, diversified, locally adapted and resource-efficient domestic production including at difficult production locations, and facilitating the relevant training opportunities. The Confederation strives to limit adverse environmental impacts, especially on climate and biodiversity and to foster the adaptation of the agriculture sector to changing overall climatic conditions. For this purpose, it draws on agroecological principles among other things. Moreover, the Confederation supports technological development for the enhancement of existing and future production methods.

International strategic directions

Switzerland is committed to international framework conditions that promote and accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems. The country is committed to reducing poverty, eliminating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture. It also champions food security and nutrition that is not only balanced, safe and healthy but also reflects the aspect of sustainable food production throughout the value chain. It also strives to ensure that cross-border trade helps to promote sustainable development in the agriculture and food sector.²⁹ At the same time, it fosters transparency as to the origin of food imports and the production methods entailed.

Under its bilateral and multilateral international cooperation programmes, Switzerland supports its partner countries in building up efficient, resilient and sustainable food systems for all stakeholders. Part and parcel of this is helping to build resource-sparing and resilient value chains in the agriculture sector.

4.1.4 Strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally

Switzerland is an open, innovative and internationally networked economy. Many multinational corporations have their headquarters in Switzerland. This makes the country a leading international hub for trade and investment in value chains. These companies create added value both in Switzerland and abroad and generate employment while also fomenting technology transfer between countries. However, multinational corporations also face challenges, especially in relation to observing human rights or protecting the environment. The bulk of the adverse impacts occur abroad in the upstream phases of value creation.

Responsible corporate governance is expected to minimise the negative social, economic and environmental impacts of business activities. This means specifically tackling the challenges arising from due diligence processes for companies' own business activities and those of their supply chains and the operation of redress mechanisms in connection with human rights, working conditions, the environment, and the prevention of corruption.³⁰

Goal

12.6 Companies domiciled and/or operating in Switzerland conduct their national and international business activities responsibly, with specific regard to working conditions, human rights and the environment.³¹

National strategic directions

(a) Strengthening responsible corporate governance all along the value chain

The Confederation takes specific action to raise awareness among companies domiciled and/or operating in Switzerland as to the importance of responsible corporate governance, and to assist them with implementation. On the basis of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Confederation supports enterprises in performing due diligence on their business activities and their value chains in Switzerland and abroad to ensure the sustainability of products and production processes. The Confederation is committed to the application and further development of coherent state and private sustainability standards. It also fosters initiatives to assist Swiss companies in gauging the effectiveness of their business activities in terms of the SDGs and in taking targeted action.

At national and international levels, the Confederation is committed to promoting and harmonising companies' disclosure of relevant and comparable information about their environmental, economic and social impacts. Considering that Switzerland leaves a substantial social and ecological footprint abroad, account must be taken of the principal causes of the adverse impacts all along the value chain. By laying the scientific groundwork and providing reliable environmental data, the Confederation enhances the transparency and quality of information as well as the assessment of value chains. Among other things, it provides basic data for life-cycle analyses.

The Confederation honours its international undertakings whereby it must protect its citizens if third parties – including corporations – commit human rights violations on its sovereign territory.³² Accordingly, it implements laws, incentives or promotional measures and supports corporate initiatives. Aggrieved parties can obtain redress through judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms.

International strategic directions

Switzerland is involved in implementing and developing international guidelines to encourage responsible corporate governance around the protection of human rights and the environment. As an open and internationally networked economy, Switzerland is alive to the impacts of its consumption and production patterns, especially on developing countries. Switzerland encourages the worldwide implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Supply Chains.³³ Besides, the country specifically advocates the enhanced implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, both through its bilateral relations and in multinational bodies.

4.2 Climate, energy and biodiversity



The international community must ensure the long-term and sustainable preservation of the basis of life and the economy, as well as the maintenance and promotion of functional and thus efficient ecosystems for the economy and society. This is a challenge, especially in the areas of environment, energy, climate protection and adaptation to climate change. Switzerland faces the following specific challenges:

- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts:** Meeting Switzerland’s own climate goals and adapting to the consequences of climate change require targeted, expeditious, joint and coordinated commitment on the part of all stakeholders. → [4.2.1](#)
- **Lowering energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energy sources:** Education, research, innovations, investments, incentives and incentive taxes should contribute to reducing energy consumption and bring about safe, sustainable and, as far as possible, emission-free energy production in Switzerland. → [4.2.2](#)

- **Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity:** Well-being and prosperity in Switzerland are fostered if the functionality of its ecosystems and more generally biological and landscape diversity are preserved, protected, promoted and used sustainably. → [4.2.3](#)

Climate, energy and biodiversity are closely interlinked and mutually influencing fields. Climate change therefore increases the pressure on biodiversity. Climate protection measures impact biodiversity, and energy-related measures also affect both climate and biodiversity. By the same token, biodiversity and its ecosystem services also impact climate. Biodiversity in particular is relevant to both climate change adaptation and mitigation. This presupposes that biodiversity is rich and able to respond to changes.

It is important that conflicts of objectives are handled transparently. Such conflicts arise from the demands placed by society and business on the environment, notably in connection with food, housing, recreational activities and mobility.³⁴ Under this priority topic, this concerns mainly the compatibility of environment and nature protection with climate-resilient and high-quality human settlement development, economic growth and socially equitable framing of the regulatory system. The legislation must weigh up costs and benefits.

4.2.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts

The goal of limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial values will only be attained if worldwide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050.³⁵ This will require a rapid and substantial lowering of emissions.

In cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Switzerland's challenges lie specifically in the areas of transport, buildings, industry, energy and agriculture. Roughly two thirds of Switzerland's greenhouse gas footprint is created abroad. Good coordination between the policy areas concerned is indispensable. To the extent possible, action to cut greenhouse gas emissions must be based on the polluter-pays principle and help to internalise external costs.

The effects of climate change are already being felt. Long-term and systematic climate observations show that compared with the average temperature for the pre-industrial reference period 1871–1900, Switzerland has warmed up by just under 2 °C to date.³⁶ This is more than twice the average global temperature increase of 0.8 °C. The CH2018 Climate Change Scenarios³⁷ show that unchecked climate change will see a continued increase in the frequency and intensity of heat waves, droughts, heavy precipitation, floods, landslides and winters with little snow. Other foreseeable adverse consequences include heat-related deaths and morbidity, health impairments – among them an increase in vector-borne diseases – as well as epidemics or heightened risk factors for non-communicable diseases. Further consequences include crop failures, damage to forests, and the spread of harmful organisms. Climate change simultaneously places added pressure on biodiversity. Climate change also has an impact on human settlements and infrastructure, with adverse consequences for the population, the economy and the environment. Mitigating these negative consequences requires adaptation to the consequences of climate change and greater resilience.

Goals

- 13.2** Greenhouse gases are down by at least 50 per cent compared with 1990. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050 at the latest.³⁸
- 13.1** Climate-related risks are minimised, opportunities are made use of, population, environment, property and natural resource base are protected and the society, economy and environment are more resilient to these risks.³⁹
- 11.b** The number of damaging events affecting settlements is falling and their effects are diminishing compared with the 2005–2015 period.
- 13.3** People, authorities, enterprises, decision-makers, professionals and consumers have adequate information and agency to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.⁴⁰

National strategic directions

(a) Rapidly and substantially reducing all greenhouse gas emissions

The Confederation creates an appropriate regulatory environment that favours a substantial and rapid fall in fossil fuel consumption as well as a rapid reduction of non-energy and non-fossil greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, the Confederation continues consistently to apply national climate policy instruments and the associated measures, supplementing and reinforcing them as necessary. It scales up its use and promotion of natural and technological carbon sinks in harmony with the aims of rich biodiversity⁴¹ and avoids further emissions from practices that are not adapted to the location. It ensures that by 2050 at the latest, unavoidable emissions are offset by means of emission sinks. In this connection, sinks are no substitute for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but a complement to emission reductions.⁴² The Confederation incorporates climate protection into all relevant policy areas, strategies and plans, being mindful of the needs of the various population groups in the process. This entails coordinating transport, settlement and landscape development. In addition, public and private financial flows are to be made consistent with climate goals. The Confederation ensures that measures are implemented such that they are acceptable to society and business, reflect the polluter-pays principle, and contribute to the internalisation of external costs.

(b) Coordinated and sustainable management of the effects of climate change

The Confederation provides the basic information and data required for reducing risks and seizing opportunities in all the fields concerned. It puts findings into practice and incorporates climate change adaptation into its policies, strategies and planning. It coordinates and strengthens the climate change adaptation procedure by cooperating across sectors with other levels of government and non-governmental stakeholders in order to develop solutions, capitalise on synergies and avoid conflicts between objectives.

The Confederation reinforces disaster preparedness and integrated risk management. To this end, it creates the requisite legislative framework, facilitates all risk reduction measures equally, and supports the continuous monitoring of changes and the preparation of hazard and risk analyses. Wherever possible, it simplifies the sharing of data and information between authorities, private players and academia. It considers the resilience of critical infrastructure in all areas, enhances it where possible and further refines warning systems for hazards and risks.

(c) Designing sustainable and resilient settlement areas

The Confederation formulates guidelines on designing sustainable and resilient settlement areas with a high quality of life. These guidelines encompass key aspects of climate protection and comprehensive climate adaptation as well as the promotion of biodiversity and landscape quality.⁴³ Special care is taken to ensure optimum coordination of transport and settlement development. The Confederation identifies the risks to settlements and infrastructure, sets up early warning systems for damaging events and coordinates its measures at all levels of government and society for the prevention, management, minimisation of and recovery from such events.

(d) Enhancing awareness and promoting skills development

The Confederation informs the public about climate change in Switzerland as well as action on climate protection and climate change adaptation, advises cantons and communes and supports the transmission of relevant information to businesses as well as consumers. Within the scope of its remit and with due regard for federal structures, the Confederation supports education for sustainable development, an area that also encompasses the ecological component and hence climate change. Within the framework of existing legislation, it promotes education and training in its areas of competence in order to reinforce knowledge and build capacity for climate protection purposes at all educational levels.

International strategic directions

Switzerland contributes to the effective implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, relying on science in so doing. In international climate negotiations and through multilateral and bilateral cooperation, it is committed specifically to effective and rapid global mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, to robust and detailed implementation guidelines and to the scaling up of adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Switzerland redoubles its efforts to mobilise the private sector to make climate-friendly investments in developing countries and helping to fund climate programmes in multilateral development banks. The country also participates actively in the work of international financial bodies on the matter of climate-friendly financial flows and supports bilateral and multilateral programmes to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and promote adaptation to climate change.

Switzerland supports integrated urban planning, sustainable urban mobility, sustainable water management, food security, sustainable use of natural resources, efficient energy management, and energy supplies from renewable sources. It promotes the use of efficient and clean technologies. This entails drawing on the potential of cities as foreign policy players through partnerships at home and abroad.

Switzerland is committed to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and is strengthening its partnerships with developing countries and relevant regional organisations through information sharing, technology and knowledge transfer as well as institutional capacity building for risk mitigation.⁴⁴ It likewise supports the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The preparation and wide distribution of information on weather, climate and environment as well as the development of early warning and observation systems provides decision-makers with a crucial information base. Switzerland also advocates that work be carried forward on safety-related aspects of climate change.

4.2.2 Lowering energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energy sources

Overall energy consumption has stabilised in Switzerland since 2000 except in the transport sector. Average per capita energy consumption is expected to decline further thanks to enhanced energy efficiency and energy savings resulting from innovation, research, management and concrete incentives. Cutting energy consumption in this field through changed behaviour and greater efficiency despite the considerable need for mobility and the resulting increase in traffic⁴⁵ will be a major challenge.

Switzerland's energy system is largely based on non-renewable resources, with the corresponding implications for climate and environment.⁴⁶ Switzerland is entirely dependent on foreign sources for fossil and nuclear energy. The challenges are to use renewable energy sources to mitigate the environmental impacts of the energy system and to ensure the stability and resilience of the system while scaling up the decentralised supply of electricity from partly weather-dependent energy sources. The expanded use of renewable energy sources in Switzerland must be compatible with the protection of biological and landscape diversity and bodies of water and at the same time affordable.

Goals

7.3 A 43 per cent reduction in average annual per capita energy consumption and a 13 per cent reduction in power consumption by 2035 is achieved, as compared to the situation in the year 2000.⁴⁷

7.1 A sufficient, highly diversified, reliable, profitable and environment-friendly energy supply as well as the resilience of the requisite infrastructure is guaranteed.⁴⁸

7.2 A steady increase in the share of cost-efficient renewable energies in overall energy consumption is achieved. Expanding the output of hydroelectric power, bringing production in Switzerland to at least 37,400 GW/h by 2035. Efforts will be made to expand power generation from other renewable energy sources such that domestic output will be at least 17,000 GW/h⁴⁹ by 2035.⁵⁰

National strategic directions

(a) Reducing energy consumption

The Confederation aims to achieve lasting reductions in per capita energy consumption through incentives, target agreements and *ad hoc* framework conditions in the realms of mobility, buildings, infrastructure, and industry, services and agriculture. This is to be done through the economical and efficient use of energy. In the process, the Confederation is mindful of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the chosen means.

(b) Rapidly expanding renewable energies, scaling back non-renewable energies and ensuring the reliability of supply

Through targeted and market-oriented incentives, the Confederation strives rapidly to expand renewable energies and substantially increase their share in overall energy consumption. Incentives for the use of fossil fuels are eliminated and low-emission technologies given support. The government will ensure that today's high degree of supply reliability is preserved, taking due account of the aspects of nature, homeland and landscape protection.

The energy system is adapted such that renewable energies can be integrated to best advantage. The stability and resilience of the system are guaranteed through appropriate restructuring and expansion as well as through network management and access to foreign markets.

International strategic directions

At an international level, Switzerland prioritises accessible and affordable energy supplies, renewable energies and energy efficiency. Switzerland promotes energy production and supply, including decentralised off-grid solutions, and works towards eliminating fossil fuel subsidies. If implementation is to succeed, multi-lateral energy institutions must play a key role and be given greater support, especially in relation to sustainability, safety and investment protection.

Within the framework of trade agreements, Switzerland endeavours to secure market access or investment protection for environment-friendly products and for renewable energies. Development cooperation efforts support knowledge building and technology transfer, the improvement of framework conditions and the mobilisation of private resources to enhance energy efficiency, renewable energies and decentralised energy supplies.

4.2.3 Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity⁵¹

The state of biodiversity has deteriorated markedly over recent decades around the world and in Switzerland.⁵² About one-third of the species native to Switzerland⁵³ and almost one-half of habitats⁵⁴ are threatened. However, securing the requisite space for biodiversity in sufficient quality and quantity and with adequate interconnection and spatial distribution is crucial to preserving, promoting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity. This enables the business sector and society to utilise ecosystem and landscape services sustainably for the benefit of people. Resilience is an important ecosystem service. Many of the epidemics occurring around the world in recent years stem from zoonoses, which were favoured by the impacts of human activity on biodiversity, especially the destruction, overexploitation and contamination of ecosystems.

The challenge lies in coordinating settlement and infrastructure development, inputs of nitrogen, heavy metals, microplastics, medicines (such as antibiotics), the use of plant protection products and the consequences of climate change with the protection, promotion and sustainable use of the soils, bodies of water, biodiversity and landscapes. It is therefore incumbent on all stakeholders in all sectors also to safeguard biodiversity and make use of synergies in a manner favourable to nature and landscape.

Protecting, preserving and promoting biodiversity can give rise to conflicting goals and interests, for example between agriculture and the development of settlements.

Goals

- 15.5** The state of conservation of local species, especially populations of national priority species, is improved and to the extent possible, their extinction averted. Genetic diversity is preserved.⁵⁵
- 15.8** Biological diversity as well as ecosystem services are restored and preserved. Their sustainable and site-appropriate use is encouraged. People and environment are under no threat from invasive alien species. Their spread is controlled and new introductions are prevented.⁵⁶
- 15.a** Negative impacts of existing financial incentives on biodiversity and landscape quality are identified and if possible eliminated. New financial incentives are examined for their impact on the environment. New positive incentives are created where this is useful.⁵⁷
- 15.1** To secure space for the long-term conservation of biodiversity, at least 17 per cent⁵⁸ of the land area is protected through properly maintained, environmentally representative and well-interconnected systems of protected areas and other effective site-related conservation measures, and integrated into the surrounding landscape. The ecological infrastructure is developed and reinforced. The status of priority national habitats is improved.
- 6.6** As far as possible, some waterbodies with heavily built-up shores will be restored to their natural state. Sufficient space will be set aside for all bodies of water and managed extensively as areas reserved for promoting biodiversity. To the extent possible, the adverse impacts of the use of waterbodies for hydropower (hydropeaking, sediment transport, fish migration) are eliminated by 2030.⁵⁹
- 15.3** Soil function is guaranteed for the long term. Soil use causes no physical, chemical or biological stresses that in turn compromise soil function and hence soil fertility on a lasting basis. Degraded soils are restored and improved so that they are again able to fulfil the functions typical for their location. By 2030, soil consumption is reduced by one-third, compared to 2020. There will be no more net soil loss as of 2050.⁶⁰

National strategic directions

(a) Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity and genetic diversity

Jointly with the cantons and communes, the Confederation ensures the rapid and effective implementation of national biodiversity policy and the corresponding measures. It supplements and reinforces them where necessary. In its spatial planning activities it supports coordination and agreement on the use, conservation and development of biodiversity. It incorporates biodiversity into its concepts, strategies and action plans, utilises and supports the expertise of science-led institutions and makes funding available. It identifies existing financial incentives that adversely impact biodiversity and adapts them as far as possible. It extends and harmonises the legislation on preventing and controlling invasive alien species.

(b) Creating a functioning ecological infrastructure

The Confederation cooperates with the cantons and communes as well as private persons to ensure that there is a sufficient number of all habitats of high ecological quality – such as bodies of water, banks, wetlands, marshes, forests and extensively used agricultural and forest areas – and that they are spatially and functionally interconnected and that their territorial layout is appropriate. The Confederation supports the cantons financially in introducing the necessary measures. The Confederation works with all competent stakeholders to ensure that protected areas are of the requisite ecological quality, are preserved and, where necessary, upgraded, and are expanded by means of connection areas. This entails enshrining designated habitats in spatial planning instruments such as cantonal structure plans and federal sectoral plans as well as proper and transparent coordination with the agriculture, forestry and spatial development sectors. Sustainable use is guaranteed over the entire area. In the course of its activities, the Confederation protects natural and cultural landscape qualities and exploits synergies to the fullest extent.

(c) Using soil sustainably, avoiding soil degradation and loss, and preserving and restoring soil functions

In collaboration with other stakeholders, the Confederation redoubles its efforts to reduce soil degradation, preserve and restore the quality, quantity and multifaceted functions of the soil and ensure that it is used sustainably, economically, appropriately and in keeping with its site-specific properties. There should be no further net soil loss as of 2050.⁶¹ In conjunction with the cantons, the Confederation ensures that the necessary site-related information is available and that soil functions are taken into account in planning and in the balancing of interests. The Confederation strives to ensure that soil fertility is preserved and agricultural production systems are attuned to the tolerance levels of ecological systems.

International strategic directions

Internationally, Switzerland strengthens its commitment to biodiversity. It champions the effective implementation of biodiversity-related treaties at global⁶² and regional⁶³ levels and supports international initiatives to monitor the environment. In these multilateral processes, Switzerland works to bring about effective framework conditions for preserving, promoting and ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity. Special importance is given to combating the major global causes of biodiversity loss (habitat loss, overexploitation of natural resources, climate change, environmental pollution, as well as invasive alien species).⁶⁴ Priority is given to protecting, facilitating (e.g. through rewilding) and interconnecting ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, as well as factoring biodiversity into the making of financial and investment decisions. Further priorities are the safety of gene technology for people, animals and the environment, appropriate access to genetic resources and a balanced and fair distribution of the benefits deriving from their use (“access and benefit sharing”).⁶⁵

Switzerland works to ensure that synergies between individual environmental agreements are strengthened and that these conventions and their funding mechanisms are implemented coherently. Through its environmental foreign policy, foreign trade policy, foreign agricultural and energy policy, Switzerland aims to minimise the potential adverse impacts of its consumption on biodiversity abroad.

Under its international cooperation programmes, Switzerland actively pursues the sustainable management of natural resources, the promotion of biodiversity, including biological diversity in agriculture, and the transformation of economy and society towards sustainable production and consumption. These are indispensable to the long-term observance of the tolerance limits of global ecosystems and to securing prosperity for all generations.

4.3 Equal opportunities and social cohesion



An inclusive society offers all its members economic and social opportunities as well as the opportunity to realise their personal potential. This requires that natural resources are available for all in sufficient quality and quantity and that they are used responsibly. Under the 2030 Agenda principle of “leaving no one behind”, this means eliminating poverty in all its forms around the world, reducing inequalities and discriminatory barriers that result from socio-economic or geographical factors or from aspects of social, cultural and personal identity. Invariably the most disadvantaged population groups suffer most from crises such as pandemics, natural disasters, conflicts or economic crises and their impacts. Switzerland faces the following specific challenges when it comes to ensuring equal opportunities and social cohesion:

- **Promoting individual self-determination:** It must be ensured that everyone is able to share in a country's prosperity and shape his or her life independently. → [4.3.1](#)
- **Ensuring social cohesion:** Discrimination, inequalities and disadvantages should be reduced, promotion given to social cohesion that takes account of diversity and territorial disparities, and intergenerational solidarity should be ensured. → [4.3.2](#)
- **Guaranteeing real equality between women and men:** Existing inequalities between women and men in professional and public life, in education and the family should be eliminated and further promotion given to gender equality. → [4.3.3](#)

It is important that conflicts of objectives are handled transparently. Under this priority topic, this concerns the connection between economic growth and fair distribution, between information and reporting obligations and the placing of administrative burdens on enterprises, between equal opportunities, equity of opportunity⁶⁶ and economic freedom, and between information sharing for violence prevention and data protection, among other things. In the realm of foreign policy, contradictions may arise between development policy goals and other policy areas such as finance and tax policy, trade policy or environment policy. In parallel, there are synergies that can be harnessed and maximised. Integration, cultural and social policies, for example, are mutually supportive.

4.3.1 Promoting individual self-determination

In 2019, some 8.7 per cent of Switzerland's permanent resident population in private households were affected by income poverty.⁶⁷ The situation of children and young adults who grow up in families affected or threatened by poverty is especially precarious. As pertains to educational opportunities, disadvantages have been observed to stem from people's socio-economic status or migration background.⁶⁸ Challenges arise regarding access to supplementary childcare and early support as well as in promoting young people and young adults who are late migrants and lack a sound basic education or knowledge of the national languages. In addition, the housing conditions of the most impoverished households and those in precarious circumstances are less than adequate.^{69,70}

Switzerland has a top-notch health system and the health of the population is very good by international comparison. Yet the handling of the pandemic has revealed that the system's capacity to absorb such global health shocks needs to improve. Health risks are still many and varied and there are differences attributable to social factors both in health status and in health-related behaviour as well as in the uptake of available health services. Rising health costs are steadily driving up health insurance premiums, which represent a growing financial burden on many households and on the public purse and also have a negative impact on the use of services. Guaranteeing long-term access to a reliable, high-quality and affordable healthcare system, a healthy environment and to effective prevention for everyone remains a challenge.

As a driver of structural change, digitisation is transforming the world of work and the profiles being sought on the job market.⁷¹ It must be ensured that worker qualifications and skills can be adapted rapidly enough to keep pace with changing job market requirements. However, it cannot be ruled out that some people may be left behind in this transformation process. Trends in social security must therefore be closely monitored. The conditions enabling Switzerland to grasp the opportunities of digitisation (→ 4.1.1) for job creation purposes must be further enhanced. One key aspect of this is orienting education and training in the realm of digitisation towards the skills and expertise required by the business sector. Furthermore, the Swiss labour market must continue to show the requisite flexibility in order to take advantage of the digital transformation. Care must be taken to maintain high labour market participation and the good quality of working conditions.

Goals

- 1.2** The segment of the population in Switzerland living below the national poverty line is reduced.⁷²
- 3.8** Everyone in Switzerland benefits from top-calibre and affordable healthcare without discrimination. Low-threshold preventive services reach all demographics. Living conditions in Switzerland are conducive to good health. There is a decline in the number of people who forgo necessary medical examinations or treatment for financial reasons.⁷³
- 11.1** The stock of affordable housing is preserved and is increased in areas with high demand. Population groups at a disadvantage in the housing market have access to affordable and decent housing.⁷⁴
- 4.3** Access to high-quality general and vocational education and training – including at tertiary level – offers economic and social opportunities irrespective of gender, origin, disability or social status.⁷⁵

National strategic directions

(a) Preventing and alleviating poverty as well as promoting social and professional integration

The Confederation supports the cantons, cities and communes as well as civil society stakeholders in their ongoing endeavours to prevent and alleviate poverty. It provides the requisite information on trends in poverty, preventive measures and their impacts. Within the scope of its remit, the Confederation promotes basic skills and professional qualifications for adults. In cooperation with other stakeholders, it provides assistance in accessing and remaining on the job market for people with difficulties in gaining such access or with limited prospects on the mainstream labour market. Specifically, the focus here is on preserving employability and developing strategies for social integration and cultural participation. These endeavours are attuned to existing structures in the health, social, cultural and education sectors. In conjunction with the cantons and social partners, the Confederation ensures that the wage and working conditions prevailing in Switzerland are not abusively undercut.

(b) Increasing the chances of a healthy life and facilitating low-threshold access to healthcare

The Confederation promotes health in keeping with the WHO definition of health as not just the absence of disease, but as a state of complete well-being. In collaboration with the cantons, communes and other stakeholders, the Confederation ensures that healthcare is easily accessible, non-discriminatory and coordinated and available to everyone in Switzerland. It is committed to ensuring that every person will be able not only to manage their own health risks and assess their health condition, but also to develop awareness of a healthy lifestyle as well as the requirements of public health, for example, in the event of a pandemic. Protecting the environment and natural spaces favours health and human well-being. In pursuit of a holistic health policy, the Confederation and cantons promote wholesome living conditions and in particular the reduction of health hazards emanating from the environment. Jointly with the social partners, they ensure that existing measures for prevention and health promotion in the world of work are applied more stringently.

(c) Promoting the supply of decent housing

The Confederation promotes non-profit housing development and advocates affordable accommodation and the economical use of living space. Together with the cantons, cities and communes, it is committed to providing an appropriate supply of housing, thereby forestalling the effects of exclusion, social segregation and discrimination. In this way, it caters specifically to the needs of families and aid-dependent people and their financial possibilities. To this end, the Confederation supports the cantons, cities and communes in particular through appropriate spatial planning measures, and encourages dialogue between the different levels of state. It cooperates with the cantons to create stopping places for itinerant communities.

(d) Ensuring equitable access to education

Within the scope of its remit and in agreement with the cantons, the Confederation works actively to identify structural disadvantages and discrimination at an early stage and to balance them out across educational levels and subject areas. This is achieved, for instance, by enhancing accessibility in the education system and ensuring optimal transitions between the different educational levels. Special attention is paid to the needs of preschool children and young people who are late migrants.

International strategic directions

Under its international cooperation programmes, Switzerland helps to alleviate poverty and assists people in leading economically, socially and culturally self-determined lives. This means paying special attention to the principle of leaving no one behind. It addresses key health determinants such as water and sanitation, nutrition or air pollution, it buttresses health systems and global health security and facilitates access to high-quality, affordable and equitable health services and systems. Switzerland reinforces education systems to allow for inclusive and equitable access and the completion of a relevant, high-quality basic education and vocational training designed to meet the evolving needs of the job market and favour economic inclusion. The country promotes entrepreneurship and paves the way for the creation of decent work and reasonable earning opportunities.

Switzerland is committed to implementing the provisions of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In developing and emerging countries, Switzerland supports and strengthens workers, peasant farmers and small-scale producers through specific technical and financial programmes, climate protection measures and research. It also endeavours to ensure that its political activities do not adversely affect developing countries. This means ensuring that resources are managed sustainably and that natural resources are preserved under conditions equitable for all. It is also committed to building the capacity of developing countries to mobilise domestic resources and combat illicit financial flows.⁷⁶

4.3.2 Ensuring social cohesion

Reciprocal knowledge and recognition of the cultures, languages, religions and lifestyles that are present in Switzerland is of particular importance to social cohesion and prosperity for all. In this connection, regional disparities and issues of intergenerational distribution are just as challenging to national cohesion as the pursuit of individual lifestyles, social and cultural diversity and the participation of all in economic, social and political life. Social inclusion and equality of opportunity, for example in the spheres of health, education or working conditions, help build resilient societies, which come into their own especially in times of crisis.

The Swiss Constitution prohibits discrimination based on origin, "race",⁷⁷ gender,⁷⁸ age, language, social standing, way of life,⁷⁹ religious, philosophical or political persuasion or any physical, mental or psychological disability.⁸⁰ Those affected nonetheless face challenges when it comes to the practical implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, in that the high costs involved in bringing civil cases often constitute a psychological barrier to filing complaints against discrimination.⁸¹ In addition, people who embody several of the features that become grounds for discrimination (e.g. origin, religion, social status) are often subject to multiple discrimination. This can lead to more extreme and frequent discrimination or considerably increase the risk of discrimination. Despite the measures introduced,⁸² equality for homosexuals, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people remains a challenge. The shifting of the societal debate to the Internet and to social media harbours further risks of discrimination.

Goals

- 10.3** No one is discriminated against, in particular on grounds of origin, race,⁸³ gender, age, language, social position, way of life, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious, philosophical or political beliefs, or because of a physical, mental or psychological disability.⁸⁴
- 8.5 (a)**⁸⁵ People with disabilities are integrated into the job market.⁸⁶
- 10.7** Immigration is safe, orderly and in keeping with Switzerland's economic prosperity and social cohesion. Refugees and vulnerable persons are afforded protection that takes gender and age-specific needs and vulnerabilities into account. The causes of flight and irregular migration to Europe are tackled and the integration of refugees and migrants is encouraged and demanded.⁸⁷
- 10.2** Democracy is strengthened through the creation of opportunities to participate in and help shape social development and decision-making processes, especially for those who are left out of the political decision-making process, as well as for children and adolescents.
- 11.a** The Confederation adequately addresses the challenges specific and common to cities and communes, agglomerations, rural areas and mountain regions, and works towards coherent spatial development that helps to lessen negative regional disparities, preserve regional diversity as well as create a future-fit living environment.⁸⁸
- 1.3** Social insurance coverage is preserved, with the social insurances being financially consolidated and attuned to trends in society. In conjunction with other cantonal means-tested benefits, they adequately cover social risks.

National strategic directions

(a) Eliminating all forms of discrimination

The Confederation provides information regarding the legal instruments available to victims of discrimination and promotes facilitated access to the justice system in order to protect people against all forms of direct and indirect discrimination as well as structural and intersectional⁸⁹ discrimination. It redoubles its efforts to highlight and actively combat structural and institutional discrimination. It intensifies coordination and cooperation between the units that fight specific types of discrimination thereby strengthening the protection of persons who could face multiple discrimination. It raises awareness among legal players and, within the limits of its responsibilities, helping with their further training. To better gauge the need for action, the Confederation explores the options for improving the data situation regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics.

(b) Guaranteeing inclusion for people with disabilities

The Confederation supports the participation of people with disabilities in the job market, in particular by helping to foster an inclusive work environment. It is working with the cantons to encourage their participation especially in social, cultural, sporting and political life and to take steps to remove obstacles. In so doing, the Confederation and cantons take special care to ensure that the principles of universal accessibility are consistently applied, especially with regard to digital communication and access to public transport.

(c) Facilitating the integration of migrants and ensuring protection for vulnerable persons

In close collaboration with the cantons and communes as well as civil society, the Confederation introduces, encourages and strengthens action to promote and require the rapid assimilation of asylum seekers and migrants into society and the job market. The Confederation supports the cantons and communes in creating a general environment favourable to equal opportunities – in particular as regards learning a national language, and in education, health and housing matters – and in acting to foster mutual understanding, participation in social and cultural life and to guarantee access to services for all. Under its asylum policy, it offers protection to vulnerable persons and champions the cause of safe access routes, among other things. It participates in the reception of refugees by helping to create cantonal resettlement places.

(d) Encouraging social, cultural, economic and political inclusion and participation

Within the scope of its powers and in consultation with the cantons, the Confederation is committed to promoting social, cultural and economic integration using a whole-of-society approach designed to foster peaceful coexistence and the participation of all segments of the population, in particular the resident foreign population. The Confederation therefore teams up with the cantons to promote social networking, political involvement, volunteering and mutual understanding. In addition, the Confederation supports projects to facilitate access for the broadest possible segment of the population to political participation, allowing individuals to play a part in shaping societal relations.

(e) Reducing regional disparities

The Confederation takes steps to make the range of available public services more equitable across the country, to eliminate regional inequalities, especially as regards access to particular types of services (mobility, health and education, culture, public services), and to promote competitiveness. The Confederation is committed to coherent spatial development. This means fostering cooperation between the competent players across communal lines and service areas and supporting them in finding solutions that guarantee the quality and accessibility of basic services.

(f) Ensuring the long-term stability of retirement pension systems

The financial stability of Switzerland's retirement pension systems is secure despite demographic trends. The Confederation ensures that the reforms proposed in order to secure the financial balance of retirement pension systems while preserving social protection take due account of the interests of all age groups and safeguard the intergenerational contract. The supreme authority of each social insurance institution is responsible for its investment policy. The Federal Council supports pension plans in their efforts to be mindful also of the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement in managing pension capital.

International strategic directions

To reinforce social coherence, Switzerland strives through its bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation to lessen discrimination, exclusion and vulnerabilities and to secure everyone's participation in economic, social, cultural and political life. Promoting democracy is one of Switzerland's foreign policy priorities. The country actively seeks to eliminate economic, political, social and cultural barriers hampering members of minorities, disadvantaged groups and children and young adults and to afford them access to services and resources. This entails striving rigorously to reduce gender-based disadvantages and improve access for women and girls in particular, as well to boost their participation. Switzerland supports human rights defenders and endeavours to protect them from arbitrariness, threats and violence in their local contexts.⁹⁰ Switzerland strives for improved global governance and international solutions relating to migration, the protection of refugees and of internally displaced people. It is committed to creating framework conditions that enable migrants to play a part in securing the livelihoods of their families and by extension in realising the SDGs in their countries of origin. Switzerland works towards improving the living conditions of disadvantaged population groups, including those subject to discrimination and exclusion, people with disabilities, children, minorities, refugees, internally displaced people, migrants, and people affected by any form of poverty. It fosters peaceful, just and inclusive societies and is committed to the prevention of armed conflicts and all forms of violence.

Switzerland cooperates with other European countries to improve economic, social, cultural, and territorial cohesion and thereby lessen territorial disparities in Europe. Cooperation with other Alpine States is of particular importance in this connection, not least of all considering their cultural closeness and the similarity of the challenges they must face.

4.3.3 Guaranteeing real equality between women and men

Switzerland has not yet achieved gender equality. Admittedly, more women than men are now obtaining tertiary-level qualifications and female participation in the workforce has increased. However, the uneven distribution of roles when it comes to unpaid work in the form of homemaking and caregiving creates different employment histories for women and men and hampers women's economic self-reliance. Worthy of specific mention are the high rate of part-time female employment, discrimination based on pregnancy and maternity, as well as the still elusive equal pay for women and men. These inequities adversely impact social security cover during working and retirement years, as the social insurance system is based on a linear career model. More can still be done to improve the balance between working and family life, including caregiving. The facilities available in the way of supplementary childcare still fall short of the needs of parents, and this continues to be a financial burden on them. Women are still noticeably under-represented in economic and political decision-making bodies and leadership positions.

Eliminating these inequalities also forms part of implementing the international instruments ratified by Switzerland, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). It also makes economic sense.⁹¹ Promoting economic self-reliance can positively impact the personal security of women and constitute an element of protection against violence. By the same token, removing structural inequalities and promoting self-determination for women are also instrumental in helping them to secure economic autonomy. Violence against women and girls is still a major social problem in Switzerland as well.⁹² In this endeavour, the priorities are to prevent and combat the various forms of gender-specific violence such as domestic violence, forced marriages, physical, psychological and sexual violence, female genital mutilation and stalking.

Goals

- 5.1** Men and women are equal. Equality for women and men is guaranteed at the workplace, in education, politics and the family. The law ensures not just formal but also real equality.⁹³
- 5.4** The distribution of gainful work and unpaid household and family work between the genders is more balanced. Women and men benefit from the corresponding regulatory framework that favours the reconciliation of private, family and work life as well as the balanced distribution of paid and unpaid housework and family work.⁹⁴
- 8.5(b)**⁹⁵ The labour market participation of women and their volume of work are increasing. Women and men are economically independent and have independent social security cover throughout their entire lives. Wage inequality is abolished and the pension gap between women and men is closing.⁹⁶
- 5.5** The comprehensive and effective participation of women is guaranteed at all decision-making levels of economic, political and public life.⁹⁷
- 5.2** All forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, are curbed.⁹⁸

National strategic directions

(a) Guaranteeing economic independence, equal pay and a good work-life balance

The Confederation continues actively to implement equal pay and provides employers with suitable tools for monitoring their wage practices. In reforming the social insurances, more specifically retirement provision, the Confederation is mindful of social trends, in particular the different life trajectories and associated needs of women and men. It is exploring the introduction of individual taxation in order to reduce negative employment incentives. The Confederation takes account of the diversity of family models and is committed to improving the work-life balance. Among other schemes, it therefore promotes the development of a sufficient number of affordable, non-family childcare facilities of good quality.

(b) Promoting appropriate representation in decision-making bodies

The Confederation sets clear goals for balanced gender representation in political and economic decision-making bodies and in leadership positions and takes effective steps to promote this. It is exploring a higher gender quota in extra-parliamentary commissions, analogous to the targets for management bodies of federal government-associated businesses and institutions.

(c) Abolishing sexism and violence and combating gender stereotypes

Violence, sexism and discrimination hinder equality between the sexes. The Confederation therefore works in close collaboration and coordination with the cantons to strengthen action to prevent and combat domestic and all types of gender-specific violence, especially physical, psychological and sexual violence, stalking, trafficking in women, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as sexual harassment at the workplace and in public places. Accordingly, it acts to tighten the relevant civil and criminal law provisions. In combating discrimination and violence, the Confederation recognises that people are subject to multiple forms of discrimination. It combats not only discrimination but also stereotypical role models in the public space, in education and in the media, including social networks.

International strategic directions

Through the relevant UN bodies and multilateral development organisations, Switzerland works actively to further develop international policies and norms on gender equality and to advance women's rights. In this regard, it is committed to combating all forms of gender discrimination, including multiple discrimination based on specific exclusion criteria such as age, socio-economic status, cultural identity, gender identity, sexual orientation or other exclusion criteria.

The main international reference frameworks for gender equality are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention"), and the fourth UN World Conference on Women, together with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). It engages systematically in policy dialogue with its partner countries on gender equality. To that end, it recognises women as important players and partners, involves men and boys in the search for solutions, and sensitises them to equality issues.

Switzerland's foreign policy and international cooperation priorities specifically include strengthening the role of women in economic life, their effective involvement in political life and in social decision-making, as well as preventing and reducing all forms of gender-specific violence. Switzerland works to enhance sexual and reproductive health and the associated rights paying special attention to aspects of multiple discrimination.

Through the national action plan for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security”, Switzerland works specifically to promote an active role for women in conflict prevention and to bring about the full, effective and equitable participation of women in peace processes and in political processes. In so doing, Switzerland promotes effective participation by women from the grass-roots to the management level. It supports measures to protect women against sexual violence and to care for those affected by violence in humanitarian contexts. Switzerland also facilitates the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and in security policy. Switzerland also advocates the comprehensive control of the trade in small arms and light weapons. In pursuit of these goals, the country works with local civil society stakeholders and, at bilateral and multilateral levels, strives for the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda.

5 Drivers of sustainable development



Besides the Confederation, the cantons and communes, numerous other stakeholders fulfil a vital role in implementing the goals and strategic lines of action under the priority topics (→ [Chapter 4](#)), and are therefore able – across all thematic priorities – to act as drivers of sustainable development and hence play a meaningful part in implementing the 2030 Agenda.⁹⁹ The following paragraphs will shed light on the specific contributions of civil society, business, the financial market, and the spheres of education, research and innovation, which can have a particular impact on a number of relevant topics.

In pursuing the SDGs, the utmost should be done to decouple the benefits of economic activity from undesirable environmental and social costs. Suitable economic policy conditions – as far as possible internalising negative externalities for example – and private sector approaches have a key role to play here. A financial sector that places sustainability at the centre of its decisions is contributing effectively to the furtherance of the 2030 Agenda and simultaneously securing its competitiveness and future-fitness. Moreover, education, research and innovation constitute a key to developing, scientifically supporting and disseminating knowledge about solutions to the critical challenges of sustainability. Finally, a great many civil society organisations and the general population make key contributions to realising the goals and strategic priorities of the 2030 SDS.

5.1 Contribution of civil society



On an individual and collective basis, civil society plays a critical role when it comes to defining, strengthening and implementing sustainable development in Switzerland and abroad. Through their day-to-day consumer decisions regarding mobility, shopping, holidays or housing conditions, citizens exert a significant and direct influence on sustainable development.

Civil society is a key driver of social transformation processes. There are numerous civil society interest groups working actively to implement all the global Sustainable Development Goals, including critical voices. Some specifically champion the causes of marginalised groups and in that way do justice to the ambition of “leaving no one behind”. It is just as critically important to include children and young adults, as they will be most affected by future developments.

Civil society stakeholders play a vital role with respect to all the priority issues and lines of action of this strategy. Through their experience and practical knowledge, they contribute to mobilisation, the dissemination of information and to opinion-building. In their professional and private lives, they are also able to promote behaviour that furthers the transformation towards sustainable development. Professional associations, for example, can play an important part in driving sustainable production, while interest groups can raise awareness of sustainable consumption. Clubs or neighbourhood organisations can also motivate people to get involved in social, cultural and sporting activities as well as volunteer work and in that way enhance social cohesion. Youth associations also help to drive sustainable development.

The Confederation and to a great extent the cantons and communes as well create the enabling environment in which civil society can contribute, whether individually or collectively, to sustainable development. This can be achieved, for example by including civil society organisations in opinion building and in participatory processes or by promoting clubs. Numerous enterprises and public employers also play their part by enabling and encouraging the appropriate engagement on the part of their employees.

At the same time, the joint involvement of numerous stakeholders covers key aspects of global Sustainable Development Goal 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development”, more specifically that of encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 SDS.

Cooperation between the Confederation and civil society is crucial to the implementation of the 2030 SDS (→ [Chapter 7.3](#)). All stakeholders, in particular the Confederation, cantons, communes and the business sector, are invited to strengthen their commitment to creating an enabling environment for civil society involvement.

5.2 Contribution of the economy



An efficient and dynamic economy that operates in accordance with the principles of sustainability contributes to prosperity and is an important lever for sustainable development. It is essential to the creation of decent and secure jobs, good income opportunities and to innovations that offer solutions to the major challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

By virtue of their considerable economic, ecological and social impacts, businesses can contribute substantially to implementing the 2030 Agenda and thereby secure market opportunities in a future-fit environment. Businesses are important as employers and taxpayers and as drivers of innovation and technological advancement. Through their activities, they are also able to work towards fairness, good working conditions, corruption prevention, the responsible use of resources, reduced environmental degradation and the observance of human rights and environmental standards at home and abroad.¹⁰⁰ By practising corporate social responsibility (CSR), businesses have an opportunity to secure a strategic advantage for themselves, boost their productivity and minimise reputational risks. This calls for favourable regulatory conditions, legal certainty and appropriate incentives in Switzerland and abroad. Also needed is a long-term, sustainable growth policy that makes efficient use of the factors of production and is geared towards social and environmental needs.¹⁰¹ Accordingly, the Confederation works to ensure that clear guidelines are created and the requisite groundwork laid so as to drive forward the transformation towards a sustainable economy. In addition, the private sector is called on to set ambitious targets for its own contribution to sustainable development, to create appropriate business models and to report on its progress. Making up the bulk of businesses in Switzerland, SMEs are especially challenged in this regard.

Businesses are better able to harness their innovative potential when the proper incentives and other framework conditions are present, in particular for resource conservation and the sustainable design of production chains, business models as well as products and services. These include competitively organised markets and international openness, guidance on the internalisation of external costs, well-trained professionals, intellectual property protection and a minimal administrative burden.

In the international economic arena, Switzerland's actions are geared towards promoting reliable and sustainable economic policy environments. The aim is to ensure that businesses, products and services that are currently uncompetitive owing to the failure to internalise external costs can gain access to markets and opportunities and thereby contribute to sustainable economic growth and prosperity over the long term. The Confederation expects businesses domiciled or operating in Switzerland to discharge their responsibility in complying with the internationally recognised CSR standards and guidelines in all their activities in Switzerland and abroad. Besides, international trade can help fuel sustainable development. Trade agreements that are in line with the conventions of the International Labour Organisation and with international environmental agreements can be instrumental in reducing inequalities, creating decent employment, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and in generating prosperity.¹⁰²

5.3 Sustainability in the financial market



The financial market can offer considerable leverage for sustainable development and for shaping a future-fit economy. Sustainability issues are exerting an ever greater impact on the financial market by opening up new opportunities while also harbouring potential risks.¹⁰³ At the same time, today's forms of investment and funding are also impacting the economy and the natural environment considerably.

Owing to its world-leading financial industry, Switzerland is predestined to play a pioneering role in the realm of sustainability and hence in helping to realise the 2030 Agenda. Ever more investors are demanding assets and financial products that demonstrably fulfil sustainability criteria. This is unlocking new and expanding business lines for financial institutions. Businesses in search of capital have an incentive to be much more mindful of environmental and social considerations as well as good corporate governance (the "ESG criteria") and to make this clear, for example in their sustainability reporting.

The aim is to make Switzerland a leading location for sustainable financial services. The Confederation will create a regulatory environment that enhances the competitiveness of the Swiss financial centre, at the same time enabling the financial industry to make an effective and verifiably positive contribution, especially in the areas of climate and biodiversity. These two requirements do not conflict with each other but are mutually supportive. Already in 2016, the Federal Council laid the groundwork for its policy of sustainability in the financial industry, which specifically included subsidiarity in government action and the primacy of market-based solutions. In 2020, it further fleshed out aims, principles and measures in the field of sustainable finance.¹⁰⁴ Sustainability is therefore a key component of financial market policy. The Confederation keeps financial market regulations under constant review from the standpoint of sustainability and monitors where there may be potential for improvement. In doing so, it is mindful of international developments, especially those occurring in the EU.

Switzerland is an advocate of internationally uniform, comparable, expedient and suitable systems and tools for systematically rating the sustainability of businesses and for gauging and reporting on sustainability-related financial risks and impacts. Furthermore, the Confederation promotes the implementation of international standards for corporate social responsibility such as those emitted by the OECD for the finance industry.¹⁰⁵ To that end, the Confederation regularly gauges progress by means of voluntary climate alignment testing of the financial portfolios of Swiss pension funds, insurance companies, banks and asset managers. These tests show that Switzerland's financial industry is not yet aligned with international climate goals. The Confederation supports further research, for example, so that it will be possible in the future to analyse investments for their impacts on biodiversity.

Switzerland takes an active part in the work of international finance bodies on the topic of sustainability (e.g. the Financial Stability Board, the International Platform on Sustainable Finance, and the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action) and supports the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.¹⁰⁶ The Swiss National Bank and the Federal Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) are members

of the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System. This body studies the extent to which climate and other environment-related risks endanger the resilience of the financial system, as well as their impact on the macro-economy. It also looks at the potential role of central banks and supervisory authorities in the transition to a sustainable economy. In the summer of 2021, FINMA is expected to adopt the fleshed-out disclosure requirements regarding climate-related financial risks to be met by the largest banks and insurers.

In addition, Switzerland is committed to preventing and containing illicit financial flows. These financial flows are a global and complex phenomenon affecting many countries. In essence, they involve cross-border capital movements bound up with illegal activities such as money laundering, corruption or tax evasion and avoidance. It is difficult to estimate the worldwide volume of illicit financial flows. At international and national levels, Switzerland is also striving to develop and implement effective standards to enhance transparency and avoid and combat the illegal activities underlying these financial flows.

5.4 Education, research and innovation



Federal funding policy in the fields of education, research and innovation is guided by the principles of sustainable development and helps to undergird Switzerland's position as a centre for education, science, research and innovation. It boosts Switzerland's capacity to live up to its responsibility for the future and to deliver solutions for achieving the SDGs.

Switzerland's education system, whose further development is geared towards high quality and permeability, helps people to think for themselves and act independently, to participate in society, pursue their personal development, acquire the skills needed to be employable and to strengthen their own resilience as well as that of society as a whole. It enables them to grasp the importance of sustainable development and to participate actively and consciously in shaping it. In further improving the education system, the Confederation and cantons ensure equal recognition in society for general and vocational courses of study as well as their international compatibility.

Education is especially crucial to thinking responsibly about the future. It is therefore important for sustainable development to be addressed across all educational levels and in all courses, and efforts should continue for them to be incorporated in curricula. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) fosters the crucial skills required and can thus be conducive to sustainable development. ESD is also promoted at the federal level through various specific laws even outside the area of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI). Switzerland's tertiary institutions are making a substantial contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in particular by training future scientists and decision-makers and by laying the scientific groundwork for sustainability innovations.

Science and research are critical to understanding not just the current state and evolution of natural resources and our environment in general, but also to comprehending the new risks and benefits arising from technological, societal and economic developments. They furnish data and analyses on which society and decision-makers can rely. Moreover, the higher education institutions and academies of arts and sciences maintain dialogue with society, making scientific findings accessible to the general public in an understandable manner. International cooperation is paramount for education, research and innovation, as many of the issues that are addressed in the framework of sustainable development have an international connection. Scientific research can also be instrumental in pinpointing the causes of poverty and inequality, devising solutions and thereby mitigating the global risks to economy, environment and society. Cooperation with developing and transition countries can also play a role in this connection.

By generating and transferring knowledge to society, Switzerland's universities and research entities are making a sterling contribution to resolving major societal challenges such as demographic change, inclusion for all segments of society, the sustainable economy, energy, and climate change.

An innovation is a new development that is successfully applied in the economy or society. For products, designs or services to be considered innovations, they must in fact embody novel features. Educational institutions and research players are helping to create and expand the "knowledge" resource and to make it usable for applications – educational institutions by turning out qualified human capital, research players through their research activities.¹⁰⁷ Innovation can therefore act as a driver of the process of transformation towards sustainable development.

Innovations can only deploy their full potential when they can be successfully brought to market. This calls for regulatory environments conducive to enhancing innovative capacity as well as absorption capacity. Digitisation can facilitate sustainable change, through resource optimisation, accessibility, the development of new types of cooperation and value creation.

6 The Confederation as a model



The Confederation consistently applies the principles of sustainable development in its own activities. It holds key levers in many areas with which to help realise the goals of the 2030 SDS. This chapter describes how the Confederation acts to this end as a purchaser, an owner of autonomous entities, an investor, employer and a consumer of natural resources.¹⁰⁸

6.1 The Confederation as a purchaser

The Confederation provides substantial resources for the procurement of goods and services, or for the award of public construction contracts. In 2019, the central Federal Administration alone procured construction work, goods and services worth 6.1 billion francs.¹⁰⁹ This substantial procurement volume gives the government the wherewithal to contribute significantly to fostering sustainable consumption and sustainable production and innovations. In this regard, the Federal Act on Public Procurement¹¹⁰ resets the parameters of public procurement, thus paving the way for more sustainability and quality-driven competition.

The Confederation procures products, services and construction works that meet stringent economic, environmental and social specifications throughout their service life. It establishes a strategic framework that sets the level of ambition for sustainability criteria and provides for appropriate controlling and monitoring. It harmonises the application of public procurement law with the cantons and communes.

6.2 The Confederation as the owner of autonomous entities

The Confederation currently owns 20 autonomous entities, including companies that provide their services on the market (e.g. Swisscom, Swiss Post, SBB or RUAG), monopolistic institutions (such as ETH Domain, Swiss Export Risk Insurance SERV), as well as entities tasked with economic and safety inspection (e.g. FINMA or the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI).

The Confederation sets strategic goals for these autonomous entities.¹¹¹ They serve not only as a way of steering these entities, but also as a frame of reference for the Federal Council's reporting to the Federal Assembly on the attainment of these goals. The demands of sustainability are taken into account in the formulation of the strategic goals.

The Confederation expects that, from a social, economic and environmental standpoint, government-associated enterprises will display responsible behaviour within the meaning of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

6.3 The Confederation as an investor

In ratifying the Paris Climate Agreement, the Confederation committed to aligning financial flows with the net zero target for greenhouse gas emissions. As far as possible, the Confederation brings its influence to bear within the managing bodies of institutional investors (e.g. Swiss Federal Social Security Funds AHV/AVS, IV/AI, EO/APG, SUVA and PUBLICA pension fund) in order to encourage them to follow responsible investment policies. This also means incorporating environmental and social dimensions as well as good corporate governance (the “ESG criteria”) and regular climate alignment testing of their portfolios.

6.4 The Confederation as an employer

The Federal Administration comprises some 70 administrative units with roughly 38,000 employees. The Confederation abides by high ethical standards and is extremely ambitious in matters of worker development, diversity, equal opportunities and health and environmental protection.

The Confederation promotes equal opportunities with respect to gender, multilingualism, integration of persons with disabilities or a migration background, as well as the generations, and this especially against the backdrop of labour market changes – for example the digital transformation. It ensures compliance with legal stipulations on non-discrimination in all areas of activity and in all work processes. The Federal Administration favours balanced gender representation, especially in leadership positions, as well as working conditions that facilitate the work-life balance. It guarantees equal pay for women and men and does not tolerate sexual harassment.

6.5 The Confederation as a consumer of natural resources

The Confederation runs the Resource and Environmental Management of the Federal Administration (RUMBA) programme, and, under the VBS-DDPS, a Spatial Planning and Environmental Management System (RUMS VBS), with a view to systematically minimising environmental impacts arising from operations and products of the Federal Administration and the Armed Forces. Through RUMBA it acts to reduce resource usage and environmental damage in the building sector (electricity, heating and refuse), in paper consumption, mobility and catering. The RUMS VBS measures are focused mainly on the army, i.e. on their activities and infrastructure, on the natural spaces and resources used for military purposes. They are meant as far as possible to minimise environmental pollution and continuously improve the environmental stewardship of the DDPS. Under the initiative entitled “Confederation: exemplary in energy”, the Confederation and its autonomous entities commit to innovative and exemplary energy management. The Confederation’s sustainable property management is exemplary. It communicates its solutions and approaches internally and externally.

The Federal Council has approved a package of measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions across the Federal Administration and the Armed Forces.¹¹² By 2030, the Federal Administration aims to have lowered its domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent compared to the base year, 2006; the Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (VBS) is expected to reduce its emissions by at least 40 per cent compared to 2001.¹¹³ The Federal Administration is committed to taking action to mitigate the environmental impacts of official travel and vehicle procurement.

The “Air Travel Action Plan” is targeting a 30 per cent cut in CO₂ emissions from official air travel by federal employees by 2030.

In organising its conferences and events, the Confederation adheres to strict environmental and social standards, in particular in relation to choice of location, catering and travel options.

7 Cooperation and partnerships to implement the strategy



7.1 Organisation within the Federal Administration

2030 Agenda Steering Committee

The Federal Council has appointed the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee and tasked it with strategically coordinating and steering implementation of the 2020 SDS and reporting to the United Nations. In so doing, it has buttressed the institutional framework for sustainable development at federal level. This strategic steering and coordination body comprises top-level representatives of the leading federal agencies responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda and of the Federal Chancellery.

The 2030 Agenda Steering Committee agrees on key strategic issues as well as the domestic and foreign policy components of the 2030 Agenda. It undertakes cross-sectoral tasks relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS and is responsible for reporting. Through these activities, it anchors the SDGs more firmly in sectoral policies. In this way, it helps to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development and, in the event of conflicting goals, is able to make suggestions to the Federal Council in the spirit of sustainable development.

Federal Council Delegates for the 2030 Agenda

The operational leadership of implementation is the responsibility of the two Delegates for the 2030 Agenda appointed by the Federal Council – one each from the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) and from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). They take turns in chairing the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee and ensure the greatest degree of coherence between domestic and foreign policy concerns. They coordinate all the federal agencies involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda, they carry out representational duties, and also consult the cantons, communes and interest groups from civil society, business and academia. Lastly, they report annually to the Federal Council on the status of implementation and any decisions are requested through their respective Department.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the organisational structure and the respective responsibilities and tasks will be kept under review until the end of 2022. The Federal Council will effect any adjustments that may be needed.

Funding the implementation of the strategy

The Federal Council is keen to provide the funding needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS. No new funding vehicle will be created through the 2030 SDS, however.

Concrete implementation of the 2030 SDS is done principally by the federal agencies responsible for the various policy areas. They incorporate the requirements of the 2030 SDS into their regular budget and policy management processes and guarantee the financial and human resources required to implement the 2030 Agenda from their approved budgets. Should additional funding be needed for certain policy areas, federal agencies may request it as part of the ordinary budget process.

7.2 Cooperation with cantons and communes

One key concern of the Federal Council is taking account of the principles of sustainable development at all levels of government. All measures are implemented within the framework of the existing distribution of state responsibilities. The cantons and communes are primarily responsible for many policy areas of relevance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and make an important contribution.

Future dialogue and structured tripartite cooperation between the different levels of state in implementing the 2030 Agenda will be buttressed at a political level (Conference of Cantonal Governments [KdK-CCG] and Conferences of Cantonal Directors) and at a technical level (Cantonal Sustainable Development Network [CSDN] and thematic bodies). Towns and communes in particular play an important part in the effective implementation of sustainable development locally. They are also involved at an international level.

Institutional cooperation and coordination between the Confederation, cantons and communes is being further strengthened and open dialogue and inclusion encouraged. The Federal Council is urging the cantons and communes to incorporate sustainable development into their regular planning and management processes, and has invited them specifically to take account of the aims and strategic directions of the 2030 SDS priority topics in so doing.

As a tried and tested platform for dialogue and networking between the three levels of the state, the Sustainable Development Forum will be maintained and strengthened through cooperation based on partnership. The Confederation promotes regional and local sustainability processes and projects by providing targeted logistical, technical and financial support and by means of activities to network the players involved.

7.3 Cooperation with civil society, business and academia

Sustainable development is a task incumbent on the whole of society, with civil society, business and academia playing a vital role alongside the three levels of state. They make a major contribution to attaining the SDGs by means of pioneering ideas and concrete activities. Effective teamwork between public, private and civil society partners can create synergies for sustainable development and minimise adverse consequences.

The Federal Council takes on board all relevant interest groups in a participatory and partnership-based manner in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS by intensifying and institutionalising the dialogue with them and, in particular, consulting them on future revisions of the 2030 SDS and the associated action plans as well as the various reports. It is keen to foster open dialogue between all partners and further reinforce multifaceted cooperation on sustainability policy both domestically and internationally. This paves the way for a range of perspectives to be taken into account and makes for a better understanding of the cross-connections between individual SDGs and of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

For this purpose, the Federal Council uses existing vehicles and creates space for mobilising new players and ideas. The 2030 Agenda Advisory Group appointed by the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee – comprising director-level representatives of civil society, business, academia and other interested parties – plays a pivotal role here.

7.4 Communications

The successful implementation of sustainable development at all state levels and in society calls for an active information policy. Within the scope of their sectoral powers, all federal agencies pursue the relevant communications activities with regard to the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS. At an international level, the overarching communication regarding the 2030 Agenda is the responsibility of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and at a national level, the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE). The cantons, communes, and business, civil society and academia are closely involved in the process.

On the one hand, the Federal Council pursues the overall aim of making the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs better known by means of good communication that is coordinated among the departments. On the other hand, the Council's intention is that the various target groups will perceive the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity, within the scope of their own powers and activities, to create a concrete connection with the 2030 Agenda and accordingly communicate their engagement and their specific contributions.

8 Policy cycle, monitoring and reporting



The 2030 SDS is implemented and further improved based on a four-year policy cycle. The monitoring, baseline assessment and reporting for the purposes of the country report, the interim evaluation of the 2030 SDS, the further development of the 2030 SDS and the approval of future action plans are all interrelated and interdependent. At an international level, Switzerland participates in the monitoring and in the UN review mechanism.

8.1 Policy cycle for implementing the 2030 Agenda and further developing the 2030 SDS

At federal level, implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the further development of the 2030 SDS each take place on a four-yearly basis, coinciding with a legislature period. Every two years, and on an alternating basis, a progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is tabled and a new 2030 SDS Action Plan is approved.

Every four years the Federal Council presents a country report outlining Switzerland's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The next report is scheduled for 2022. The country report is intended for the Swiss public and is submitted to the UN under the Voluntary National Review mechanism. It highlights the areas of greatest need for action and the most significant progress made by Switzerland in implementing the 2030 Agenda and takes the priority topics of the 2030 SDS into consideration.

The country report is based on a comprehensive, previously updated baseline assessment of all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, mandated by the Federal Council, and on a statistical situation analysis. This baseline assessment therefore serves as guidance in all policy areas that are of relevance to implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in further developing the 2030 SDS and its action plans.

In early 2024 and in the framework of the dispatch on 2023–2027 legislature planning, the Federal Council is to approve a new action plan for the 2024–2027 period including additional federal policy measures. In terms of content, the 2030 SDS should in essence remain as consistent as possible throughout the implementation period up to 2030. Where necessary, the Federal Council will refine the strategy in a pragmatic manner, especially to take proper account of new challenges, political decisions, as well as international or domestic developments. Any necessary adjustments will flow from the findings of this baseline assessment as well as from an interim assessment of the 2030 SDS implementation conducted in each case towards the end of the legislative period.

At the various stages of the review, the cantons and communes, as well as the business sector, civil society and academia are consulted and included in the process as appropriate.

8.2 Monitoring of sustainable development

Knowledge of the status and evolution of the most important sustainable development parameters is crucial to the balancing of interests and to policy decision-making. This explains why sustainable development monitoring as an instrument of implementation has steadily gained in importance.

The enhanced MONET 2030 indicator system for monitoring sustainable development ensures the measurability of the framework of the 2030 Agenda objectives adapted to Switzerland. The indicators take a holistic approach to monitoring the developments, taking into account the living conditions of the present generation and the fairness of distribution over space and time. The indicators are selected not on the basis of policy specifications but in accordance with a consistent methodological concept. The indicators fulfil the requirements of official statistics and this ensures independence, neutrality, transparency and representativeness.

The appendix (→ [Appendix 3](#)) contains the list of MONET 2030 indicators that allow for the specific measurement of trends with regard to the 2030 SDS goals under the three priority topics. These indicators are categorised in accordance with the subtopics. For each indicator, the source, the frequency of the survey and, where available, other information such as a breakdown by gender are given. For indicators that are still being developed or which cannot yet be produced, a provisional title as well as the publication timeline are given where possible.

The indicators assigned to the goals of the 2030 SDS are also used for the regular reporting on the implementation of the 2030 SDS. Because the indicators mostly cover just one specific aspect of a goal, they are supplemented with additional items of statistical information (called "clusters"). These clusters enhance the informative value of the indicators in that they facilitate more in-depth analysis of the goals of the 2030 SDS as well as the interlinkages among them.

All MONET 2030 indicators can be viewed on the website www.statistics2030.ch, where a specific display of the 2030 SDS indicators is possible.

Moreover, the Confederation makes targeted foreign policy contributions to improving the worldwide data situation and assists developing countries in building national capacities for sustainable development monitoring. It works towards ensuring that relevant international players such as UN programmes are able to make their contribution to data collection.

Worldwide achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda is measured on the basis of a list of international indicators which are set by the United Nations Statistical Commission and are identical for all countries. They are published in an annual progress report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

8.3 Reporting and international review mechanism

Switzerland is committed to an efficient review and reporting mechanism for the 2030 Agenda. At an international level, UN member states have agreed to give an account of their progress at regular intervals in the form of country reports. This reporting takes place within the framework of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which meets under the aegis of the UN General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and supports and monitors implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the involvement of all stakeholders worldwide.

Every four years the Federal Council prepares a country report outlining developments, progress and setbacks in implementing the 2030 Agenda. That report draws on a baseline assessment and a situation analysis based on MONET 2030 indicators. Dialogue is also sought with international peers. Furthermore, all federal agencies include the 2030 Agenda in their own periodic reports on items of business or areas covered by their sectoral policies.

Finally, each year the Federal Council includes in its annual report to the Parliament a brief account of the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and specific activities from a domestic or foreign policy perspective.

Appendices



Appendix 1: The 17 global Sustainable Development Goals



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



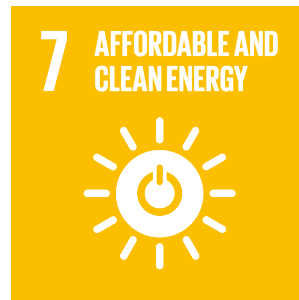
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



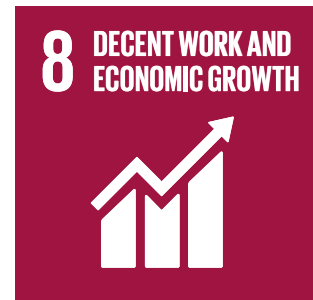
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and end biodiversity loss



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Appendix 2: SDS 2030 overview structure

Priority topic 4.1 Sustainable consumption and sustainable production

Subtopics	Goals (SDG targets)	National strategic directions	International directions: related SDGs
4.1.1 Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns	12.8	(a) Boosting the supply of sustainable goods and services	12
	12.8	(b) Improving consumer knowledge	
	12.c	(c) Averting the negative impacts of subsidies or tax incentives for fossil fuels by reducing or restructuring them	
4.1.2 Ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources	12.2(a), 8.4, 8.2	(a) Promoting socially and environmentally sustainable production patterns	12, 8
	8.2	(b) Boosting competitiveness and innovative capacity as well as the productivity of the Swiss economy	
	8.4	(c) Promoting a circular economy	
	12.4	(d) Avoiding the adverse effects of chemical products on health and the environment	
4.1.3 Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad	2.1	(a) Promoting healthy, balanced and sustainable nutrition	2, 3, 12
	12.3	(b) Reducing food waste	
	12.2(b)	(c) Enhancing sustainability throughout the food value chain	
	2.4, 12.2(b)	(d) Enhancing the resilience of the food system	
4.1.4 Strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally	12.6	(a) Strengthening responsible corporate governance all along the value chain	12

Priority topic 4.2 Climate, energy and biodiversity

Subtopics	Goals (SDG targets)	National strategic directions	International directions: related SDGs
4.2.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts	13.2	(a) Rapidly and substantially reducing all greenhouse gas emissions	13, 11, 15, 7
	13.1	(b) Coordinated and sustainable management of the effects of climate change	
	11.b	(c) Designing sustainable and resilient settlement areas	
	13.3	(d) Enhancing awareness and sensitisation and promoting skills development	
4.2.2 Lowering energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energy sources	7.3	(a) Reducing energy consumption	7
	7.1, 7.2	(b) Rapidly expanding renewable energies, scaling back non-renewable energies and ensuring the reliability of supply	

Subtopics	Goals (SDG targets)	National strategic directions	International directions: related SDGs
4.2.3 Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity	15.5, 15.8, 15.a, 15.1, 15.3	(a) Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity and genetic diversity	15
	15.a, 15.1, 6.6	(b) Creating a functioning ecological infrastructure	
	15.3	(c) Using soil sustainably, avoiding soil degradation and loss, and preserving and restoring soil functions	

Priority topic 4.3 Equal opportunities and social cohesion

Subtopics	Goals (SDG targets)	National strategic directions	International directions: related SDGs
4.3.1 Promoting individual self-determination	1.2	(a) Preventing and alleviating poverty as well as promoting social and professional integration	1, 3, 4, 8
	3.8	(b) Increasing the chances of a healthy life and facilitating low-threshold access to healthcare	
	11.1	(c) Promoting the supply of decent housing	
	4.3	(d) Guaranteeing equitable access to education	
4.3.2 Ensuring social cohesion	10.3	(a) Eliminating all forms of discrimination	10, 11
	8.5(a)	(b) Guaranteeing inclusion for people with disabilities	
	10.7	(c) Facilitating the integration of migrants and ensuring protection for vulnerable persons	
	10.2	(d) Encouraging social, cultural, economic and political inclusion and participation	
	11.a	(e) Reducing regional disparities	
	1.3	(f) Ensuring the long-term stability of retirement pension systems	
4.3.3 Guaranteeing real equality between women and men	5.1, 5.4, 8.5(b)	(a) Guaranteeing economic independence, equal pay as well as a good work-life balance	5
	5.5	(b) Promoting appropriate representation in decision-making bodies	
	5.2	(c) Abolishing sexism and violence and combating gender stereotypes	

Appendix 3: Overview of the MONET 2030 monitoring system indicators for the 39 targets of the 2030 SDS

Priority topic 4.1 Sustainable consumption and sustainable production

Goal	Assigned indicators	Data availability	Source	Comments	Status
4.1.1 Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns					
12.8	<u>Environmental behaviour in everyday life</u>	As of 2011, every 4 years	FSO		√
12.c	Petroleum tax relief extended → Working title: Tax abatements for fossil fuels	As of 2002, annually	FCA	The existing indicator to be extended by further tax abatements.	→22
4.1.2 Ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources					
12.2 (a)	<u>Material footprint per person</u>	As of 2000, annually	FSO		√
8.4	<u>Material footprint</u>	As of 2000, annually	FSO		√
8.2	<u>Labour productivity</u>	As of 1991, annually	FSO		√
12.4	Working title: Listed chemical substances	As of 2012, annually	FOPH	An indicator based on Switzerland's regulatory risk reduction measures for chemical substances is being prepared.	→22
4.1.3 Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad					
2.1	<u>Fruit and vegetables consumption</u>	As of 2012, every 5 years	FSO	Further breakdown by gender available.	√
12.3	Working title: Avoidable food loss in Switzerland (along the entire value chain) per person			Currently no data available.	-->
12.2 (b)	<u>Greenhouse gas footprint</u>	As of 2000, annually	FSO	Further breakdown per person available.	√
2.4	<u>Nitrogen balance from agriculture</u>	As of 1990, annually	FSO		√
	<u>Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture</u>	As of 1990, annually	Agro-scope		√
	Working title: Share of organic farming	As of 1996/1997, annually	FSO	Indicator being developed.	→22
4.1.4 Strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally					
12.6	Gap				-->

√ Existing indicator

→22 Development of the indicator planned by end 2022

--> Development of the indicator planned for later

Priority topic 4.2 Climate, energy and biodiversity

Goal	Assigned indicators	Data availability	Source	Comments	Status
4.2.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts					
13.2	<u>Greenhouse gas emissions</u>	As of 1990, annually	FOEN		√
13.1	Working title: Heat-related deaths			Indicator being developed.	→22
11.b	Working title: <u>Damage caused by natural disasters</u> in settlement areas	As of 1972, annually	WSL	The existing indicator will be adjusted so as to focus on settlement areas.	→22
13.3	<u>Assessment of dangers associated with climate change</u>	As of 2011, every 4 years	FSO	Further breakdown by gender available.	√
4.2.2 Lowering energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energy sources					
7.3	<u>Final energy consumption per capita</u>	As of 1990, annually	FSO, SFOE		√
7.1	<u>Energy dependency</u>	As of 1980, annually	SFOE		√
	<u>Final energy consumption by energy source</u>	As of 1980, annually	SFOE		√
7.2	<u>Renewable energies</u>	As of 1990, annually	SFOE		√
	<u>Electricity production from renewable energies</u>	As of 2000, annually	SFOE		√
4.2.3 Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity					
15.5	<u>Biocoenosis diversity in meadows and pastures</u>	As of 2001/2005, annually	FOEN		√
	<u>Populations of breeding birds</u>	As of 1990, annually	Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach		√
15.8	<u>Invasive alien species</u>	As of 2006, irregularly	Info Flora		√
15.a	<u>Biodiversity-related expenditure (until further notice)</u>	As of 2011, annually	FOEN	New indicator being developed.	-->
15.1	<u>Swiss protected areas</u>	As of 2000, annually	FOEN		√
6.6	<u>Structure of watercourses</u>	1998/2006, irregularly	FOEN		√
15.3	<u>Soil sealing</u>	As of 1979/1985, every 12 years (until 2004/2009) or every 6 years (as of 2013/2018)	FSO		√

Priority topic 4.3 Equal opportunities and social cohesion

Goal	Assigned indicators	Data availability	Source	Comments	Status
4.3.1 Promoting individual self-determination					
1.2	<u>Poverty rate</u>	As of 2007, annually	FSO	Further breakdown by gender available.	√
3.8	<u>Foregoing necessary medical care for financial reasons</u>	As of 2007, annually	FSO		√
11.1	<u>Housing costs</u>	As of 1998, every 3 years	FSO		√
4.3	<u>Teaching staff at higher education institutions</u>	As of 2013, annually	FSO	The share of women is shown.	√
4.3.2 Ensuring social cohesion					
10.3	<u>Victims of discrimination</u>	As of 2016, every 2 years	FSO	Breakdown by gender available. Further breakdowns are being prepared.	→22
8.5(a)	<u>Participation of disabled persons in the labour market</u>	As of 2007, annually	FSO	Adaptation of the current indicator to highlight the category of people with disabilities severely limited.	→22
10.7	<u>Risk of poverty by migration status</u>	As of 2012, annually	FSO	Broken down by migration status, further breakdown by gender available.	√
	Working title: Unemployment rate by migration status	As of 2012, annually	FSO	New indicator broken down by migration status	→22
	<u>First diploma rate at upper secondary level</u>	As of 2018, annually	FSO	Broken down by nationality and place of birth	√
10.2	Working title: Political and civic activities		FSO	Indicator being developed (from the FSO integration indicators).	→22
11.a	Working title: Regional disparities		FSO	Indicator being developed (regional disparities regarding population and labour market development and/or access to services).	→22
1.3	<u>Total social security expenditure</u>	As of 1990, annually	FSO		√

Goal	Assigned indicators	Data availability	Source	Comments	Status
4.3.3 Guaranteeing real equality between women and men					
5.1	<u>Wage gap between women and men</u>	As of 1994, every 2 years	FSO		√
5.4	<u>Time spent on professional activity and on domestic work</u>	As of 1997, every 3 years	FSO	Broken down by gender	√
8.5(b)	<u>Women's employment rate</u>	As of 1996, annually	FSO		√
	<u>Wage gap between women and men</u>	As of 1994, every 2 years	FSO		√
5.5	<u>Women in National Council and in cantonal parliaments</u>	As of 1971, every 4 years	FSO		√
	<u>Professional position by sex</u>	As of 2011, annually	FSO		√
5.2	<u>Domestic violence</u>	As of 2009, annually	FSO	Further breakdown by gender available.	√

- 1 [United Nations UN \(2015\). Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- 2 Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General (2019). [Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development](#). United Nations, New York.
- 3 Wuelser G., Chesney M., Mayer H., Niggli U., Pohl C., Sahakian M., Stauffacher M., Zinsstag J., Edwards P. (2020). [Priority Themes for Swiss Sustainability Research](#). Swiss Academies Reports 15 (5). Bern.
- 4 Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC (2018). [Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Baseline assessment of Switzerland serving as basis for the country report 2018](#). Bern.
- 5 Swiss Federal Council. [Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Switzerland’s Country Report 2018](#). Bern.
- 6 The basis for this was the gathering of information on the status of implementation of the 169 targets, effected as part of the 2018 baseline assessment. [www.aren.admin.ch > Sustainable development > International cooperation > 2030 Agenda > Informationssammlung zum Umsetzungsstand der 169 Targets \(Information gathering on the status of implementation the 169 targets\)](#)
- 7 The international strategic directions are taken primarily from: [Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–2023](#); [Dispatch on Switzerland’s International Cooperation Strategy 2021–2024](#).
- 8 Between 1995 and 2018, the population increased by 21 % while consumer spending rose by 42 %. [www.bfs.admin.ch > Look for statistics > National economy > National accounts > Investment, consumption expenditure > Consumption expenditure of private households > Households final national consumption expenditure \(Table je-d-04.02.05.01, as of 27.8.2019\), Neuchâtel](#).
- 9 [www.bafu.admin.ch > Topics > Topic waste > In brief \(viewed on 5.3.2020\)](#).
- 10 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2018). [Environment Switzerland 2018](#). Bern.
- 11 Art. 10 and Art. 49 EPA; Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE (2016). [Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019](#). Bern.
- 12 For example, life-cycle inventories for some 4,000 products and processes that are of greatest importance to the Federal Administration and regularly updated by the FOEN ([www.lc-inventories.ch](#)), ecoinvent Version IFS (under preparation), World Apparel Lifecycle Database (WALD) and World Food Lifecycle Database (WFLDB)
- 13 [www.bfs.admin.ch > Look for statistics > Sustainable development > More sustainable development indicators > Switzerland’s ecological footprint \(viewed on 25.2.2020\)](#).
- 14 [www.uvek.admin.ch](#) Federal Council wants resource conservation measures (Bundesrat will Massnahmen zur Ressourcenschonung) (viewed on 10.7.2020)
- 15 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2020). [Federal Government measures for a resource-conserving, future-proof Switzerland \(Green Economy\) \(Massnahmen des Bundes für eine ressourcenschonende, zukunftsfähige Schweiz\) \(Grüne Wirtschaft\)](#). Bern. Per capita materials consumption was 18 tonnes in 2016. This figure is appreciably above the average for EU countries (14 tonnes per capita). In the Environment Switzerland 2018 report, the Federal Council stated: “An equitable global distribution provides a threshold value of 5.2 tonnes of raw materials consumed per capita and per year [...]; the varying significance of the different raw materials for the environment, however, must also be taken into account.” Like energy consumption, the consumption of materials is also among the key factors impacting the environment and more specifically, the climate: About half of all greenhouse gas emissions stem from the extraction and processing of natural resources (International Resource Panel (IRP 2019)).
- 16 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) [New growth policy 2016–2019 \(Neue Wachstumspolitik 2016–2019\)](#) Bern. Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2020). [Federal Government measures for a resource-conserving, future-proof Switzerland \(Green Economy\) \(Massnahmen des Bundes für eine ressourcenschonende, zukunftsfähige Schweiz\) \(Grüne Wirtschaft\)](#). Bern.
- 17 Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE (2016). [Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019](#). Bern. State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) [New growth policy 2016–2019 \(Neue Wachstumspolitik 2016–2019\)](#). Bern.
- 18 Chemicals Ordinance (ChemO); Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem); Federal Office of Public Health FOPH, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (2017). [Strategy for Chemical Safety](#). Bern. Ordinance on Biocidal Products (OBP); Plant Protection Products Ordinance (PlantPPO); Waste Ordinance (ADWO), Ordinance on Movements of Waste (OMW); Major Accidents Ordinance (MAO)
- 19 Art. 2 Environmental Protection Act of 7 October 1983; EPA.
- 20 Some 42 % of Switzerland’s adult population are overweight, 11 % of them being obese; the proportion is about 15 % for children and young people. [www.bag.admin.ch > Health promotion & prevention > Körpergewicht \(Body weight\) > Übergewicht und Adipositas \(Excess weight and obesity\) \(viewed on 21.9.2020\)](#).

- 21 Zimmermann A., Nemecek T., Waldvogel T. (2017). Umwelt- und ressourcenschonende Ernährung: Detaillierte Analyse für die Schweiz, Agroscope Science, 55, 1–170
- 22 Federal Office for the Environment (2019). Food waste in Switzerland: Environmental impact and reduction potential. Zurich
- 23 Definition of the food system and sustainable food systems: HLPE 2014
- 24 Zimmermann A., Nemecek T., Waldvogel T. (2017). Umwelt- und ressourcenschonende Ernährung: Detaillierte Analyse für die Schweiz, Agroscope Science, 55, 1–170.
- 25 Long-term goal: By 2050, the population's diet will be in line with the food pyramid. A linear development would see 33 % of the population consuming a diet in line with the recommendations of the food pyramid by 2030.
- 26 Postulate 18.3829, Isabelle Chevalley, 5.3.2018. Action plan against food waste.
- 27 According to the sectoral strategy on climate, agriculture and nutrition (as of 18.6.2020). The great need for action in this area is made clear in both national studies (e.g. Zimmermann et al. 2017) and international ones, such as The Lancet (2019): Food in the Anthropocene or Akenji et al. (2019). The latter postulates that: "the required footprint reductions in the case of developed countries are at least 47 % in nutrition (...) by 2030." The present intermediate target was set with feasibility in mind.
- 28 The implementation of the target and the measurement of its achievement are set out under Action area 3 of the Action Plan.
- 29 It also supports the implementation of the OECD/FAO guidelines for responsible agricultural supply chains. OECD/FAO (2016). OECD/FAO guidelines for responsible agricultural supply chains. Paris.
- 30 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) CSR Position Paper and Action Plan of the Federal Council (2015–2019 Action Plan and 2020–2023 Action Plan). On 29 November 2020, the popular initiative "For responsible businesses – protecting human rights and the environment" was rejected. This means that the indirect counterproposal already decided on by the Parliament can take effect if no referendum is held. The counterproposal envisages for the introduction of a sustainability reporting and due diligence requirement as well as transparency regarding conflict minerals and child labour.
- 31 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Federal Council Position Paper and Action Plan on Corporate Responsibility for Society and the Environment (2015–2019 and 2020–2023) (Positionspapier und Aktionsplan des Bundesrates zur Verantwortung der Unternehmen für Gesellschaft und Umwelt [2015–2019 and 2020–2023]). Bern. State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, FDFA (2020). Business and Human Rights: Swiss National Action Plan 2020–2023. Bern. Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2020). Federal Government measures for a resource-conserving, future-proof Switzerland (Massnahmen des Bundes für eine ressourcenschonende, zukunftsfähige Schweiz) (Green Economy). Bern.
- 32 United Nations (2011). Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights p. 4, New York and Geneva.
- 33 Both the OECD guidelines and papers on due diligence contain recommendations for all industries and specifically for the raw materials, agricultural, textile and financial sectors (cf. <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/duediligence>).
- 34 Swiss Federal Council (2018). Environment Switzerland. Report of the Federal Council. Bern.
- 35 IPCC (2018): Global warming of 1.5 °C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.
- 36 www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch > Climate > Swiss climate in detail > Pre-industrial reference period (viewed on 10.3.2020)
- 37 National Centre for Climate Services (2018): CH2018 climate scenarios for Switzerland. Zurich.
- 38 Federal Council decree of 28 August 2019.
- 39 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2012). Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland. Goals, challenges and fields of action. First part of the Federal Council's strategy, 2.3.2012.
- 40 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2016). Concept for climate training and communication programme. Report to the Federal Council, 4.8.2016. Bern.
- 41 Swiss Federal Council (2012). Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. Bern.
- 42 Swiss Federal Council (2021). Switzerland's Long-Term Climate Strategy. Bern.
- 43 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2020). Landschaftskonzept Schweiz. Landschaft und Natur in den Politikbereichen des Bundes. (Swiss Landscape Concept. Landscape and nature in federal policy areas). Bern.
- 44 The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Geneva.
- 45 Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE (2016). Transport Outlook 2040 – Development of passenger and freight transport in Switzerland. Bern.

- 46 Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE). Schweizerische Gesamtenergiestatistik 2018 (Swiss overall energy statistics 2018). Bern.
- 47 Art. 3 EnG (Federal Energy Act).
- 48 Art. 1, para. 1 EnG; Art. 89 para. 1 Cst.
- 49 Figure according to revised Federal Energy Act (EnG). Still to be adopted by the Federal Council before summer 2021.
- 50 Art. 2 and Art. 5 para. 1 let. b EnG
- 51 If necessary, this section will be aligned with the outcomes of the biodiversity framework currently being developed.
- 52 IPBES (2018): The regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia: summary for policymakers. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES Secretariat, Bonn.
- 53 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2017). Biodiversity in Switzerland: Status and Trends. Results of the biodiversity monitoring system in 2016. Bern.
- 54 Delarze R., Gonseth Y. et al. (2015). Lebensräume der Schweiz (Habitats Switzerland), (under revision).
- 55 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2012). Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. Bern.
- 56 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2016). Switzerland's strategy on invasive alien species (Strategie der Schweiz zu invasiven gebietsfremden Arten). Bern.
- 57 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2012). Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. Bern.
- 58 Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) (2012). Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. Bern. The absolute figure is based on an internationally agreed coverage target.
- 59 Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA) Waters Protection Ordinance of 28 October 1998 (WPO).
- 60 Swiss Federal Council (2020). Swiss National Soil Strategy for sustainable soil management. Federal Council Strategy. Bern.
- 61 Swiss Federal Council (2020). Swiss National Soil Strategy for sustainable soil management. Federal Council Strategy. Bern.
- 62 The global biodiversity-related environmental agreements include: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), International Treaty on Plant-Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO WHC), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the FAO and the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (International Whaling Commission IWC).
- 63 The regional biodiversity-related environmental agreements include: Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe.
- 64 IPBES (2019): Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
- 65 Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.
- 66 This strategy employs the terms "equal opportunity" as well as "equity of opportunity". "Equal opportunity" in the sense of the aim to afford all persons the same opportunities to participate in society, "equity of opportunity" in the sense of the operational implementation principle, meaning the creation of conditions which ensure that all persons are given the opportunities and possibilities to which they are entitled.
- 67 www.bfs.admin.ch > Look for statistics > Economic and social situation of the population > Social situation, well-being and poverty > Poverty and material deprivation > Poverty (viewed on: 5.4.2021).
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- 75 Art. 8, paras. 2 and 3 Cst. (Equality before the law), Art. 61a Cst. (Swiss Education Area), Art. 63 Cst. (Vocational and professional education and training), Art 63a Cst. (Higher education institutions), Art 66 Cst. (Education grants).
- 76 In essence, Switzerland defines illicit financial flows as cross-border capital movements bound up with illegal activities such as money laundering, corruption or tax evasion and avoidance.
- 77 The term “race” is used here within the meaning of the Constitution to describe a socially constructed characteristic that is used for categorisation and exclusion.
- 78 This also encompasses discrimination based on gender identity.
- 79 This specifically includes discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and discrimination based on the itinerant way of life.
- 80 Art. 8, para. 2 Cst.
- 81 Swiss Federal Council (2016). Right of protection from discrimination. Report of the Federal Council in fulfilment of the Naef postulate. Bern.
- 82 Referendum of 9 February 2020: Prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- 83 The term “race” is used here within the meaning of the Constitution to describe a socially constructed characteristic that is used for categorisation and exclusion. So far, no alternative terms or descriptions (e.g. ethnicity, origin) have gained currency and neatly encapsulate all the characteristics covered by the term “race” while guaranteeing uniform protection from racial discrimination. Some European countries (Austria, Finland and Sweden) have eliminated the term “race” from their national law. Other countries, such as France, have opted for a compromise. Hence, the French Criminal Code has replaced the term “race” with “supposed race” (cf. Mahon P., Graf A.-L., Steffanini F. (2019). Der Begriff «Rasse» im schweizerischen Recht. Juristische Studie. Fachstelle für Rassismusbekämpfung (Legal study commissioned by the Service for Combating Racism). Bern. Can be accessed at: www.frb.admin.ch > Statutory rights and advice > Legal Framework.
- 84 Arts. 8, paras.1 and 2 Cst.
- 85 SDG target 8.5 is included twice so as to take account of the various aspects of the subtopics that it covers.
- 86 Art. 8, para. 4 Cst. Swiss Federal Council (2020). Dispatch on Legislature Planning (Botschaft zur Legislaturplanung) 2019–2023. Bern. Swiss Federal Council (2016). Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019. Bern.
- 87 Asylum Act (AsyIA), Foreign Nationals Act (FNA), Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP), International Cooperation Strategy 2021–2024.
- 88 Art. 1 Federal Act on Regional Policy, Spatial Strategy for Switzerland, Confederation’s 2016+ Agglomeration Policy, the Confederation’s policy on rural and mountain areas.
- 89 Multiple discrimination describes a situation in which there is discrimination on several grounds (e.g. sex, origin, social status). Intersectional discrimination refers to situations in which several grounds for discrimination are present and simultaneously interact such that they cannot be separated from one another (cf. European Commission [2007]. Tackling multiple discrimination. Practices, policies and laws. Luxembourg).
- 90 See Swiss guidelines on human rights defenders (viewed on 10.5.2021)
- 91 World Economic Forum (2019). Global Gender Gap Report 2018. Geneva.
- 92 In 2020, for example, 8,106 women fell victim to domestic violence, representing 70 % of all cases. www.bfs.admin.ch > Look for statistics > Crime and criminal justice > Police > Domestic violence (viewed on 14 April 2021).
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- 95 SDG target 8.5 is included twice so as to take account of the various aspects of the subtopics it covers.
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- 98 National Action Plan to Fight Human Trafficking 2017–2020, Swiss Criminal Code (SR 311.0), Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Istanbul Convention.
- 99 In this connection, see the concept of “levers” in the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) (Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General [2019]. Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development. United Nations, New York).

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- 101 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) (2013). White paper on the new growth policy – analysis of the strategy hitherto and a look forward to the future strategy. Report of the EAER in fulfilment of postulate 13.3907, Leutenegger Oberholzer. Bern.
- 102 Together with its commitment to achieving sustainable international trading arrangements at the WTO and through free trade agreements, Switzerland is involved in the negotiations on an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS).
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- 104 www.sif.admin.ch > Press release of 26.6.2020 (viewed on 9.7.2020), as well as www.sif.admin.ch > Press release of 11.12.2020 (viewed on 10.5.2021).
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Published by

Swiss Federal Council

Project management

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE, Section sustainable development
Daniel Dubas, Doris Angst, Tina Leiser, Maria Stoll
www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment

Graphic design

Hahn + Zimmermann, Bern

Production

Rudolf Menzi, Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE

Citation

Swiss Federal Council, 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, Bern, 23 June 2021

Distribution

Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics
Distribution of Publications
3003 Bern
www.bundespublikationen.admin.ch
Art. No. 812.118.e

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